MINUTES

OF THE

EVIDENCE

GIVEN BEFORE

The Committee of Privileges,

TO WHOM

The Petition of *Edward Timewell Brydges* Clerk, claiming the Barony of *Chandos*, was referred.

Ordered to be printed 11*th May* 1791.

MINUTES, &c.

Die Martis, 21° *Decembris* 1790.

Lord *Cathcart* in the Chair.

THE Order of Reference was read: *Chandos* Peerage.

Counſel were called in; and Mr. Solicitor General and Mr. *Harvey* appearing as Counſel for the Claimant; and Mr. Attorney General on Behalf of His Majeſty; Mr. Solicitor General was heard to ſtate the Claimant's Caſe.

Then Mr. JOHN DAVIES, Clerk of the *Rolls* Chapel, was called, and having been previouſly ſworn, produced the Inrollment of certain Letters Patent, bearing Date the 8th Day of *April* 1554, creating Sir *John Bridges*, Knight, Baron *Chandos* of *Sudeley*.

The ſame was read, and is as follows:

" Decima Pars Paten' de Anno Regni Regine *Marie* primo. No. I.

" Regina Archiep̃is, Ep̃is, &c. Salt̃m. Cum enim p̃teritor' magnifica geſta Principum, ſalt̃im qui ſua induſtria atq' virtute famam nob relinquere immortalem ad mentem revocem^s, nil prudencius, nil laude dignius, ꝑ ꝑſpero atq' felici ip̃or' ſtatu ſalute ſecuroq' ſucceſſu eos feciſſe arbitram', q̃m quando fideles, diligentes, ſtrenuosq' ſuos Sẽvientes Facultat̃ib3, Regimine & Honore condigne remunẽari, cet̃isq' p̃ferre decrev'int, ſicq' ſua eis beneficia juxta eor' virtutes atq' merita benigne conferre curarunt; Nos eor' mores imitantes, non ſolum nobilitatem atq' conſtanciam, immo p̃bitatem, ac in armis ſtrenui, xxx cet̃asq' virtutes *Joh̃is Bridges* Militis, n̄ri intime dilci, non modica cum deli.a.ce mature conſiderantes xxx *Joh̃em Bridgis** Militem, Baronem Parliamenti & Regni n̄ri *Angl'*, ex mero

ꝑ Creacoe *Joh̃is Bridges* Militis. m. 2.

* Sic in Orig.

motu gr̃aq' n̄ris, ordinavim^{s}, deputavim^{s}, creavim^{s}, & conſtituim^{s},
• Sic in Orig. p̄ut' ℔ pr̄ſentes ordinam^{s}, deputam^{s}, cream^{s}, & conſtitum^{s}, atq' titulum, nomen, & ſtilum Baronis *Chandos* de *Sudeley*, locumq' in ſingulis Parliamentis infra idem Regnu' n̄m *Angl'* poſthac celebrand' cet̄eaq' jura, privilegiaq' n̄ra ip̄ius Regni, Baronib^{z} ejuſdem, ex lege, conſuetudine, aliove quovis pacto ℔tinen' eidem *Joh̄i*, dam^{s} & concedm^{s} eisq' ip̄m adeo l̄ib̄e & ample uti & gaudere, ſicut unq̄m aliquis Baro hujus Regni n̄ri uſus fuit, aut debuit, volumus. H̄end' h̄moi ſtatum, titulum, nomen, & ſtilum Baronis *Chandos* de *Sudeley* p̄dict', atq' locum in Parliamentis p̄dcis, ac cet̄ea p̄miſſa p̄fato *Joh̄i* & hered' ſuis maſculis de corpore ſuo exeuntib^{z} imp̄pm, eo q̄d expreſſa mencio, &c. Hijis teſtib^{z}, Rev̄endo in X̄po p̄re *Steph̄o' Winton'* Ep̄o, Cancellar' *Angl'*, *Will̄o* Marchione *Winton'* Thes' *Angl'*, *Henr'* Comite *Arrundell'* Seneſcallo Hoſpocij n̄ri ac p ſidenti Conſilij n̄ri, *Thoma* Duce *Norff'* Comite Mareſcall' *Angl'*, *Edwardo* Comite *Derb'*, *Henr'* Comite *Suſſex'*, *Will̄o* Comite *Pembrock'*, *Cuth̄berto Dunelm'* Ep̄o, *Will̄o* D̄no *Pagett* de *Beawdeſert*, *Will̄o Petre* Milite, uno duor' Principaliu' Secretar' n̄ror', & *Joh̄e Bourne* Milite, Altr̄o duor' Principaliu' Secretar' n̄ror', & alijs. Dat ℔ manu' n̄ram, apud *Saint Jeames*, viij die *Aprilis*,

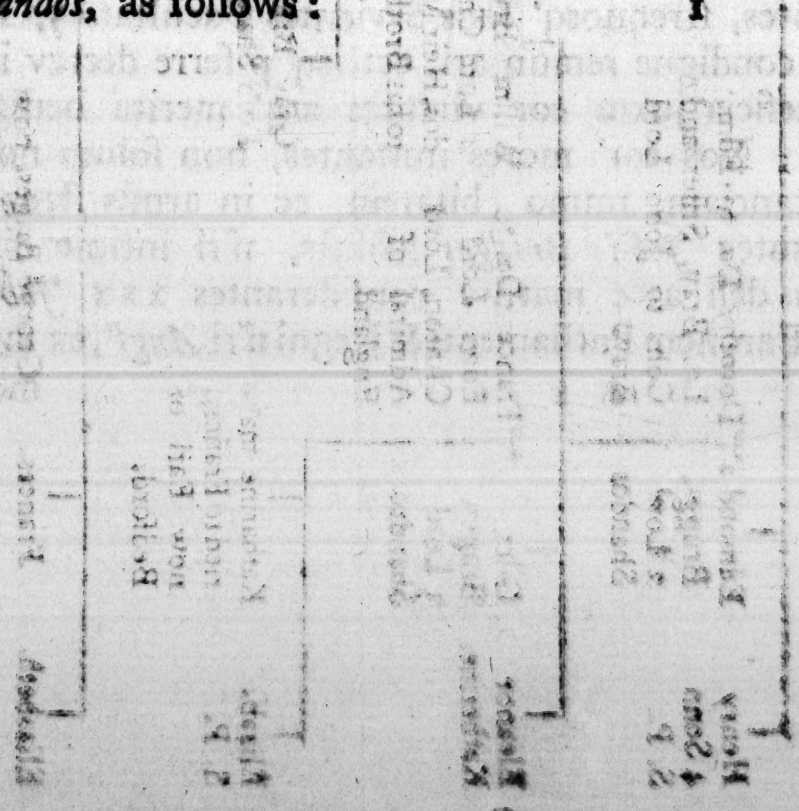
℔ ip̄am Reginam," &c.

Then the Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

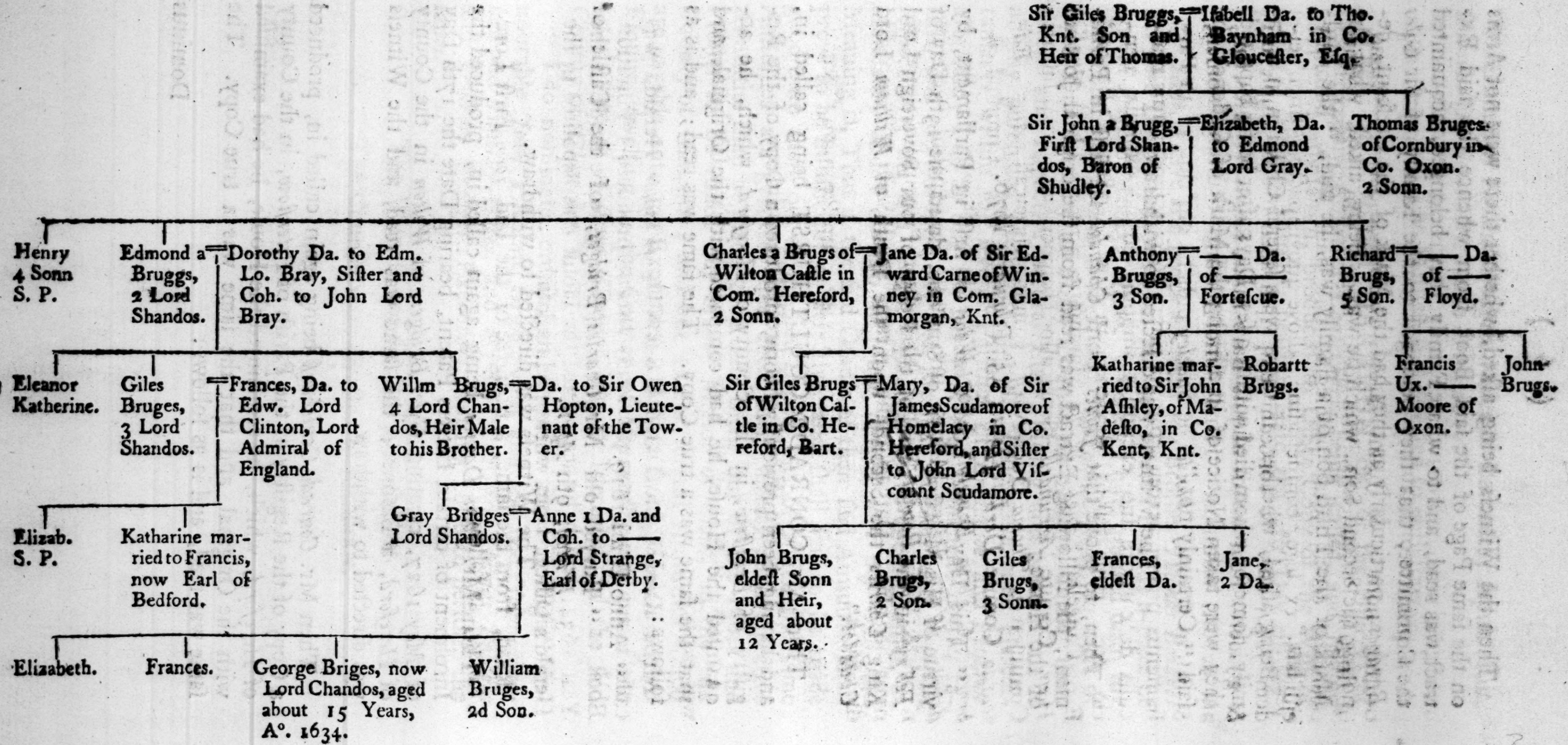
To prove that the Firſt Line of *John* the Firſt Lord *Chandos* was extinct,

Mr. FRANCIS TOWNSEND, *Windſor* Herald, was called; and having been previouſly ſworn, produced a Viſitation Book of the County of *Hereford*, appearing to be made in the Year 1634, which he acquainted the Houſe was depoſited in the Herald's Office, from whence he took it.

No. II. Read, from the ſame, a Pedigree of the ſaid *John* Firſt Lord *Chandos*, as follows:



Sir



Certified by
GYLES BRIDGES.

Then the Witneſs being aſked, whether there were not Arms on the ſame Page of the ſaid Book from whence the ſaid Extract was read, and to what Family they belonged, acquainted the Committee, that they belonged to the Family of Sir *Giles Brydges*; particularly as they had the Mark of the Creſcent, denoting the Second Son, which he was. Being aſked, what the Mark of the Third Son of a Family was, he ſaid, " the Mul-" lett."

Being aſked, whether, if there were ſeveral Children in a Family, ſome of whom died within a few Days after being baptized, they were taken Notice of in affixing the Mark of Cadency, he ſaid " Certainly not."

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then, to prove that *James* Lord *Chandos* ſat firſt in Parliament, the following Extract was read from the original Journal of the Houſe:

No. III. " *Die Jovis*, 15° *Februarij* 1676.

" This Day *James* Lord *Chandos* ſat firſt in Parliament, by virtue of His Majeſty's Writ of Sum̃ons, dated the 13th Day of *Feb̃ry*, in the 29th Yeare of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King *Charles* the Second, upon the Death of *William* Lord *Chandos*."

Then Mr. CONRADE COULTHURST being called in, and having been previouſly ſworn, produced a Copy of the Regiſtry of *Bridſtow*, in the County of *Hereford*, which, he acquainted the Houſe, he had compared with the Original, and that the ſame was a true Copy. The ſame was read; and is as follows:

No. IV. " Anno D̃mi 1619.

" Buryed old Mr. *Charles Bridges*, of the Caſtle of *Wilton*, 9th *April*."

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

No. V. Then Mr. *John Davies* being again called in, produced the Inrolment of certain Letters Patent, bearing Date the 17th Day of *May* 1627, creating *Gyles Bridges*, of *Wilton* in the County of *Hereford*, a Baronet; the ſame was read, and the Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* being again called in, produced a Copy of the Regiſtry of the Pariſh of *Peterſtow*, in the County of *Hereford*, which, he acquainted the Houſe, he had examined with the Original, and that the ſame was a true Copy. The ſame was read, and is as follows:

Dominus

" Dominus *Egidius Bridges*, Miles & Baronett', ſepult' fuit, ſecundo Die *Septembris* Anno D̃mi 1637." No. VI.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. ROBERT HARRISON, one of the Officers of the Prerogative Court of *Canterbury*, being called, and having been previouſly ſworn, produced an Office Copy of the Will of Sir *Gyles Bridges*, Baronet, bearing Date the 4th Day of *September* 1634.

Read, the following Extract: No. VII.

" *Item*. I give and bequeath unto my Brother *Thomas Bridges* his Two Daughters, the Sum of One hundred Pounds a-piece of lawful *Engliſh* Money. *Item*. Whereas I have granted unto my Two Brothers *Thomas Bridges* and *Triſtram Bridges*, to each of them One Annuity of Forty Pounds *per Annum*, during their ſeveral and reſpective natural Lives, iſſuing and payable out of all my purchaſed Meſſuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments within the ſeveral Pariſhes of *Bridſtowe* and *Pitſtowe* aforeſaid; I do by this my laſt Will and Teſtament deviſe, ratifie, and confirm unto my ſaid Brothers *Thomas* and *Triſtram* reſpectively, the ſaid ſeveral Annuities ſo to them granted as aforeſaid; and I do alſo will and deviſe, and my Will and Meaning is, That if the ſaid Grants of their ſaid Annuities ſhall prove to be inſufficient or defective, and ſhall fail to be made good unto them out of my ſaid Lands, out of which the ſame Annuities are granted, that then their ſeveral and reſpective Annuities ſhall be made good unto them out of the Iſſues and Profits to be raiſed out of my Manor of *Cleve*, in the ſaid County of *Glouceſter*; and out of the ſeveral Annuities which are payable unto my Executors or Aſſigns from *John Gaynesford* Eſquire, dwelling in the County of *Monmouth*; and out of the Lands late of *William Wintour* Eſquire, deceaſed, in the ſaid County of *Glouceſter*.

" I do nominate, ordain, and appoint the ſaid Right Honourable *John* Viſcount *Grandamore*, and the ſaid *John Abrahall* and *Timothy Gates*, and my ſaid Brothers *Thomas Bridges* and *Triſtram Bridges*, Executors, deſiring them to perform the ſame."

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Die Martis, 1° Februarij 1791.

The Lord *Cathcart* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read. *Chandos, Peerage.*

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.

The Counſel were called in,—and Mr. *Harvey*, of Counſel for the Claimant ſtated, That upon the Death of *Charles*, the Second Son of Sir *John Bridges*, in the Year 1619, an *Inquiſitio poſt Mortem* was taken, by which it appeared that Sir *Giles Bridges*, the eldeſt Son of the ſaid *Charles*, was at the Death of his Father of the Age of Thirty-eight Years, but the ſame not being ſtated in the Appendix, he requeſted Leave of the Committee to produce it for that Purpoſe.

The ſame was agreed to.

Whereupon Mr. *John Davis* was again called in, and produced an Inquiſition, bearing Date the 18th Day of *Auguſt* 1619.

Extracts from the ſame, as follow:

" Inquiſic̃o indentat' capt' apud civitate *Heref'*, in Com' *Heref'*, decimo octavo die *Auguſti*, anno regni D̃ni n̄ri *Jacobi*, Dei Gr̃a, *Anglie*, *Scocie*, *Frauncie*, et *Hib̃nie*, Regis, Fidei Defenſor', &c. (viz') *Anglie*, *Frauncie*, et *Hib̃nie* decimo ſeptimo, et *Scocie* quinquageſimo tertio, cor̃a' *Ric̃o Hall* Ar̃o Eſchaetore dc̃i D̃ni Regis, virtute Br̃is de diem clauſit extremu', poſt morte' *Caroli Bruggs* Ar̃i defunct', &c. Qui dicunt, ſup' ſacr̃m ſuu', quod pred' *Carolus Bruggs*, in d̃co Br̃i noı̃atus, diu ante obitu' ſuu' fuit s̃eit' in D̃nico ſuo, ut de feodo, de et in caſtro, &c. Et ſic inde ſeit̃us exiſtens de tali ſtatu ſuo, ſic obijt, inde ſeit̃us, &c. Et quod *Egidius Brugges* Armiger eſt filius et prox' heres d̃ci *Caroli Brugges*, et modo eſt etatis triginto et octo annoru', et amplius," &c. No. VIII. *Heref.* ff.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced a Copy of an Entry in the Regiſtry of *Bridſtow*, in the County of *Hereford*, which he acquainted the Committee he had

compared with the Original, and that it was a true Copy.—The ſame was read, and is as follows:

No. IX. "Anno D̃m̃i 1623.

"*John Bridges*, the Sonn of *Gyles Bridges* Eſq^r and *Mary* his Wife, born and baptized the One and twentieth Day of *Nov.* 1623."

The Witneſs next produced, Copies of the following Entries in the Regiſtries of *Peterſtowe* and *Dewſall*, in the ſaid County of *Hereford*, which he acquainted the Committee he had compared with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

No. X. "Dominus *Johannes Brugges* Baronet, ſepultus fuit, Vigeſſimo octavo Die *Februarij* Anno Domini *Chriſti* 1651, verus X̃tianaq' Eques T. B."

No. XI. "1651.—*Feby* 21, 1651.—Sr *John Brydges*, of *Dewſall*, Baronet, died in *Bridges Street*, in *Coven-garden*, in *London*, and was buried *Feb.* 28th. at *Pitſtow* Comitat' *Hereford*."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry, in the Regiſtry of *Bridſtowe*.

No. XII. "Anno D̃m̃i 1624.

"*Carl's Bridges*, ye Sonne of *Gyles Bridges* Eſq^r: and *Mary* his Wife, born the Five & twenty of *December*, & baptized the 6th Day of *January* 1625."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Tewkeſbury*, in the County of *Glouceſter*.

No. XIII. "Burials 1669:

"*May* 7th.—*Charles Bridges* ſenior, Gent."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Inſcription, which, he acquainted the Committee, was on a flat Stone in the Pariſh Church of *Tewkeſbury*.

No. XIV. "Here lieth the Body of *Charles Bridges* Eſq. Second Son of Sir *Giles Bridges*, of *Wilton Caſtle* Baronet, who departed this Life the 5th Day of *May* Anno 1669."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Bridſtow*:

No. XV. "*Giles*, Sonne of Sir *Gyles Bridges* Bar^t. and Dame *Mary* his Wife, bapt', 1628."

Alſo,

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Peterſtowe.*

" 1703, *Giles Bridges* Gent. was buried the Tenth Day of *December* Anno ſupra dicto." No. XVI.

Then, the Witneſs acquainted the Committee, that he had compared the ſaid ſeveral Copies with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were ſeverally read.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. THOMAS CLARKE was called in, and being ſworn, informed the Committee, that he was Patentee of the Regiſter Office of *Hereford*; and produced the original Will of *Gyles Bridges*, Son of Sir *Gyles Bryges* Baronet, dated the 20th of *November* 1702, and which, the Witneſs acquainted the Committee, was proved at *Hereford* on the 17th of *December* 1703. No. XVII.

The ſame was read.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced a Copy of certain Inſcriptions, which he acquainted the Committee were upon Coffin Plates in the Pariſh Church of *Stanmore Parva*, with which he had compared them, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were read, and are as follow:

" *Thomas Townſend* Eſq^r. Son to the Honble Col. *Townſend*, and Grandſon to Mrs *Townſend*, Siſter to *James* Lord *Chandos*, died *November* 4, 1762, aged 49." No. XVIII.

" *Thomas Brydges Townſend* Eſq^r. Captain in the Firſt Regiment of Foot Guards, and only Son of *Thomas Townſend* Eſq. died *May* 6, 1778, aged 20 Years." No. XIX.

Then, Mr. Solicitor General offered to produce in Evidence, a Pedigree of the Family of *Chandos* found in the *Aſhmolean* Muſeum; by which, he ſaid, it would appear, that *Charles* the eldeſt Son of *John* the Firſt Lord *Chandos*, had Two younger Sons, *Thomas* and *Triſtram* (alſo mentioned in the Will of Sir *Giles Bridges* their elder Brother); and that *Thomas* died without Male Iſſue, and *Triſtram* without Iſſue:—That he tendered the ſaid Pedigree more as uſeful than neceſſary, conceiving that there was no Fact in it which had not been better proved by the Evidence already given; that the firſt Parts of it were

confirmed by the Pedigree that had been produced from the Herald's Office, and the Will of Sir *Giles Bridges*, of the 4th of *September* 1634; and the latter by the Will of *Gyles Bridges*, dated the 20th of *November* 1703. Under these Circumstances he submitted, that though the Custody in which it was found was not such as would make it indisputable Evidence; yet being generally confirmed by other Testimony, he presumed to offer it as pregnant Proof of its having been made by a Person possessed of such a Knowledge of the Family as would bring it within the Description of Evidence of Reputation.

Mr. Attorney General, on Behalf of the Crown, admitted that the latter Part of the Pedigree was confirmed by Testimony already given; but objected to its being received, in respect of the Custody in which it was found, not being such as could give it any Authenticity of itself; and also in respect of its being unaccompanied with any Circumstances whatever, to shew that it had been made by any Part of the Family, or by any Person connected with the Family.

Mr. Solicitor General being heard in Reply, the said Evidence was rejected.

Then Mr. *Conrade Coulthurst* was again called in, and produced a Copy of the following Entry in the Registry of *Tewkesbury*.

" Christenings.

No. XX. " *Charles* the Son of *Charles* Esqr, and *Anne Bridges*, was born the 29th *October* 1659, and baptized *November* the 3d 1659."

To prove that *Charles*, the eldest Son of *Charles Brydges* of *The Mythe*, died without Issue, and was succeeded by his Brother *John*, in the Manor and Lands of *Bishop's Cleeve*, left by the Will of their Father to his Daughter *Anne*, and the Heirs of her Body; and for Default of such Issue, to his Son *Gyles*, and the Heirs of his Body; and for Default of such Issue, to the said *Charles* and his Heirs for ever.

No. XXI. The Witness produced an Office Copy of the Will of *Charles Brydges* of *The Mythe*, in the Parish of *Tewkesbury*, in the County of *Glocester*, dated the 3d of *May* 1669.

The same was read.

No. XXII. Also, a Copy of a Fine levied by *John Bridges* and *Eleanor* his Wife, and *Anne Bridges* Widow, in *Trinity* Term, 4 *William* and *Mary*, 1692, of Messuages and Lands in *Bishop's Cleeve*.

Also,

Alſo, a Copy of a Fine levied by *John Bridges*, of the Manor of *Biſhop's Cleeve*, in *Hilary* Term, 4 *Geo.* II. 1730. No. XXIII.

The ſame were ſeverally read.

Then, the Witneſs being aſked, if he had carefully ſearched the proper Books at the Warrant of Attorney Office, and at the King's Silver Office, from the Year 1679 to the Year 1732—He ſaid he had. Being aſked, if he had found, that within that Period any Fine had been levied, or Recovery ſuffered, of any Meſſuages, Lands, or Hereditaments in *Glouceſterſhire*, either by *Anne Bridges* or *Catherine Bridges*, or by *Anne Neaſt* or *Catherine Higford*, or by *Charles Bridges*, or by *Giles Bridges*—He ſaid he had not.

Being aſked, if he had made the above Search with ſuch Care and Diligence, that he muſt have found ſuch Fine or Recovery, if any ſuch had been there—He ſaid he had.

He was directed to withdraw.

To prove that *Anne Bridges* Widow of the ſaid *Charles Bridges* of *The Mythe*, did not mention her Son *Charles*, or any of his Iſſue, in her Will, No. XXIV.

Mr. ROBERT HARRISON was called in, and produced the original Will of *Anne Bridges* of *The Mythe* Widow, dated 28th *July* 1693.

The ſame was read.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced a Copy of an Entry, which, he acquainted the Committee, was a true Copy.

The ſame was read, and is as follows:

" Burials, *January* 1695.

" 27th. Madam *Anne Bridges*, Widow, buried according to Law. Atteſted by *Urſula*, Wif of *Wm Colly*, before Juſtice *Baldwin*." No. XXV.

Alſo, a Copy of the following Inſcription on a flat Stone. No. XXVI.

" *Ann Bridges*, Widow, died *January* 25, 1695."

The ſame were read.

He was directed to withdraw.

To prove that *Gyles Bridges*, Son of the Teſtator *Charles Bridges*, did not, in his Will, name his Brother *Charles*, or any Iſſue of himſelf, or his ſaid Brother,

No. XXVII. Mr. *Thomas Harriſon* was again called in, and produced the original Will of *Gyles Bridges* of *Tewkeſbury*, in the County of *Glouceſter*, dated the 4th *May* 1705.

The ſame was read.

He was directed to withdraw.

No. XXVIII. Then, Mr. *Francis Townſhend* was again called in, and being aſked, what Paper he held in his Hand—Said, It was a Paper he had brought from the Herald's Office, containing a Liſt of Perſons in the County of *Glouceſter*, within *Tewkeſbury* Hundred, ſummoned, or to be ſummoned, to give an Account of their Pedigrees and Arms, at the Time of that Viſitation, in 1683; and that amongſt them, againſt the Word "*Mythe*," in the Margin, are theſe Names; Mr. *Wakeman*, no Summons. *J. Mansfield* Gent'. S. (for ſummoned).

Mr. *Bridges* ſummoned, and the Name *(John)* in a Parentheſis.

Being aſked, If *Charles* was named there as ſummoned, he ſaid, No; and that there was this additional Note, "That the Bailiff does not know of any other Gentleman in the Town or Hundred."

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* being again called in, produced Copies of ſeveral Entries in the Regiſtry of *Tewkeſbury*; and alſo of an Inſcription on a flat Stone, in the Pariſh Church of the ſame; all which, he ſaid, he had compared with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were read, and are as follow:

Chriſtenings.

No. XXIX. "*John* the Son of *Charles* and *Anne Bridges*, of *The Mythe*, was born *January* ye 29th 1660, and baptized *February* 4th 1660."

"Marriages, 1713.

No. XXX. "*Jan.* 25, *John Bruges* Eſq. and Mrs. *Elizabeth Kemble*."

"Burials, 1731.

No. XXXI. "*April* 9th. Mr. *John Bruges*."

No. XXXII. Copy of an Inſcription on a Stone in the Pariſh Church of *Tewkeſbury*, in the County of *Glouceſter*.

"In

" In Memory of *John Bridges* Eſq. who died *April* the 6th 1731, aged 70."

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. Solicitor General ſtated to the Committee, that in the laſt Parliament, Two Witneſſes, *viz.* Mrs. *Elizabeth Dowdeſwell* and Mr. *Thomas Waldron*, both antient Witneſſes, had been examined by the Houſe for the Purpoſe of perpetuating their Teſtimony; that they were both alive, and probably could attend, if the Committee wiſhed to have them before the Committee, and examined again; otherwiſe they would beg Leave to read their Teſtimony from the Journals of the Houſe.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

"In Memory of *John Bridges* Esq; who died *April* the 5th 1731, aged 70."

The Witness was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. Solicitor General informed the Committee, that in the last Parliament, Two Witnesses, *viz.* [illegible] and Mr. *Thomas Walters*, both ancient Witnesses, had been examined by the House for the Purpose of perpetuating their Testimony; that they were both alive, and probably could attend, if the Committee wished to have them before the Committee, and examined again; otherwise he would beg Leave to read their Testimony from the Journals of the House.

[illegible] in the Chair.

Chandos Peerage.

THE Order of Adjournment was read.

The Minutes of the last Committee were read.

Counsel were called in; and the Committee being informed, that by reason of the House having adjourned over from *Monday* last to this Day, the Witnesses who were to have appeared before the Committee this Day could not be sworn, the Counsel were directed to proceed with their Evidence on the other Parts of the Claimant's Case.

Accordingly Mr. [illegible] was again called in, and produced Copies of several Entries from the Registry of [illegible]; also an Inscription on a flat Stone in the Parish Church of the same Place; all which Copies, he said, he had examined with the Originals, and that the same were true Copies.

The same were read, and are as follow:

"Christenings.

"1666. 16 *April* [illegible] and *Ann* No. XXXIII.
[illegible]

"1667 [illegible] and *Ann* No. XXXIV.
[illegible]

"Christenings.

"1668 [illegible] and *Ann* No. XXXV.
Bridges. [illegible]

"1703, *June* [illegible]" No. XXXVI.

Copy of an Inscription [illegible] the Parish Church of No. XXXVII.
[illegible]

"*Giles Bridges* Gent. died [illegible] 1705."

Also, a Copy of the following Entry in the Registry of *Avenbury*:

"The Right Honourable [illegible], Baron of No. XXXVIII.
Sudeley, [illegible] the County [illegible] buried *Oct.* 22d, 1714."

Also,

Die Jovis, 17° *Februarii* 1791.

Lord *Cathcart* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read. *Chandos* Peerage.

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.

Counſel were called in; and the Committee being informed, that by reaſon of the Houſe having adjourned over from *Monday* laſt to this Day, the Witneſſes who were to have appeared before the Committee this Day could not be ſworn, the Counſel were directed to proceed with their Evidence on the other Parts of the Claimant's Caſe.

Accordingly Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced Copies of ſeveral Entries from the Regiſtry of *Tewkeſbury*; alſo an Inſcription on a flat Stone in the Pariſh Church of the ſame Place; all which Copies, he ſaid, he had examined with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were read; and are as follow:

" Chriſtenings.

" 1666. 16 *April.*—*Giles*, the Son of *Charles* and *Ann* *Bridges*, Gent." No. XXXIII.

" Burials.

" 1667, *Auguſt* 3d.—*Giles*, the Son of *Charles* and *Ann* *Bridges*." No. XXXIV.

" Chriſtenings.

" 14th *April* 1668.—*Giles*, the Son of *Charles* and *Ann* *Bridges*." No. XXXV.

" Burials.

" 1705. *June* 22.—Mr. *Giles Bridges*." No. XXXVI.

Copy of an Inſcription on a Stone in the Pariſh Church of *Tewkeſbury*, in the County of *Glouceſter*. No. XXXVII.

" *Giles Bridges* Gent. died the 19th of *June* 1705."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Aconbury*.

" The Right Honourable *James* Lord *Chandos*, Baron of *Sudeley*, in the County of *Gloſter*, was buried *Oct*r. 22d, 1714." No. XXXVIII.

Alſo, Copies of the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *Dewſall.*

No. XXXIX. "1673. *Jan.* 12th.—Baptized *James*, the Son of Sir *James Brydges.*"

No. XL. "1674. *January* 26.—Baptized *Henry*, the Son of Sir *James Brydges* Baronet and *Elizabeth* his Lady."

Alſo, Copies of the following Entry in the ſaid Regiſtry of *Aconbury*; and of an Inſcription on a flat Stone in the Pariſh Church of the ſame.

No. XLI. "1676.—*Barnard*, ye Son of Sir *James Brydges*, was buried."

No. XLII. "The Body of *Barnard* ——— *Brydges*, 1676."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Dewſall.*

No. XLIII. "1671.—*John*, the Sonne of Sir *James Bridges* and *Eliz.* ye Lady his Wife, was baptized the Firſt of *November* 1671."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Aconbury.*

No. XLIV. "*John*, the Son of Sir *James Brydges*, was buried *December* the 24, 1671."

It being ſtated in the Appendix to the printed Caſe of the Claimant, that the Three Firſt Letters of the Word, "*John*", in the above Entry, were obliterated, the Witneſs was aſked, Whether, upon a further Inſpection, he was perfectly clear that the Word was "*John*". He ſaid, he was.

Alſo, a Copy of the following Inſcription on a flat Stone in *Alconbury* Church.

No. XLV. "The Bodies of *John* and *William Brydges*. 1672."

Alſo, Copies of the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *Dewſall.*

No. XLVI. "1672.—*William*, the Sonne of Sir *James Bridges* Baranett,* and *Elizabeth* ye Lady his Wife, was baptized *December* ye Firſt, 1672."

* Sic in Orig.

No. XLVII. "*William*, the Son of Sir *James Brydges* and *Elizabeth* his Wife, was buried *December* 12, 1672."

No. XLVIII. "1676. *September* 3d.—Bapt' *Francis*, the Son of *James Brydges* Lord *Chandos* and his Lady *Elizabeth*."

Alſo, Copies of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Stanmore Parva*, and of an Inſcription on a Monument in the Pariſh Church of the ſame.

"The

" The Regiſter of *Stanmore Parva* in the County of *Middleſex*. No. XLIX.

" Burials.

" 1714. *Oct*r 1ſt.—*Francis Brydges* Eſqr.—Aff made by *Perring Martyn*."

" M. S.

" Honorabilis *Franciſci Bridges* Armigeri, viri omni virtutis genere ornatiſſimi, omni politioris literaturæ laude florentiſſimi, qui in Collegij *Weſtmonaſterienſi* bonis literis ſtrenuam poſtquam navaſſet operam;———In *Sanctæ et Individuæ Trinitatis* apud *Cantabrigienſis* Collegium electorum ſuffragiis co-optatus ſuaviſſimâ indole, moribuſq' ingenuis, omnium ſibi mire devinxit animos; omnibus unice carus evaſit. Academiâ relictâ, rebuſq' gerendis ſe totum applicans, redditum regiorum de *Sale* provenientium, Rationalis & Queſtor anno 1702 factus. No. L.

" Vectigalibus *Aſiam* in portu *Boreovici* a' *Tueſim*,

" Computorem * Exactor anno 1710 conſtitutus eſt. Uxorem unicam duxit *Saram Weſtern* *Weſtern* de *Rivenhall*, in agro *Eſſexienſi*, Armig', Filiam— * Sic in Orig.

" Ex quâ nullam ſuſcepit prolem—

" *Londinum* rediens *Ariconio* (quo patrem ſuum *Jacobum* Baronem de *Chandos* morbo ſibi paucos intra dies fatali laborantem viſurus ſe contulerat)

" *Farringtoniæ* febri lethargica corruptus, ad plures deceſſit, magnum ſui deſiderium apud omnes relinquens.

" IV Calend' *Auguſti* anno 1676 natus,

" Haud diu ultra completum ætatis anno 38um vivis interfuit,

" V Calend' *Septembris* anno 1714 denatus.

" Ejus exuviæ, hanc in eccleſiam deductæ, ſub altare

" Reconditæ ſunt, Cal' *Oct'bris* ejuſd' anni."

The Witneſs acquainted the Committee, that he had examined the ſaid ſeveral Copies with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were ſeverally read.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *John Davies* was again called in, and produced the Inrollment of certain Letters Patent, bearing Date the 9th *October*, 1 *Geo.* I. creating *James* Lord *Chandos* Viſcount *Chandos* de *Wilton*, and Earl of *Carnarvon*, to hold to him and the Heirs Male of his Body, with Remainder to the Reverend Doctor *Henry Bridges*, and the Heirs Male of his Body. No LI.

Alſo, the Inrollment of certain Letters Patent, bearing Date the 29th of *April*, 5 *Geo.* I. creating *James* Earl of *Carnarvon*, No. LII.

Marquis of *Carnarvon* and Duke of *Chandos*, to hold to him and the Heirs Male of his Body.

The ſame were ſeverally read.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced,

Copies of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Stanmore Parva*, and of Two ſeveral Monumental Inſcriptions in the Pariſh Church of the ſame.

No. LIII. " The Regiſter of *Stanmore Parva* in the County of *Middleſex*.

" Burials, 1744.

" The Moſt Noble *James* Duke of *Chandos*, Marquis and Earl of *Carnarvon*, &c. &c. &c. Died the 9, and was buried the 23d Day of *Auguſt* 1744.—He was buried in the Catacome, under his Statue in the Monument Room, adjoining to the Pariſh Church of *Stanmore the Leſs*."

No. LIV. " In Hopes of a joyful Reſurrection,
Here lieth interred the Body of the Moſt Noble
James Brydges Duke of *Chandos*,
Marqueſs and Earl of *Carnarvon*, Viſcount *Wilton*,
Baron *Chandos* of *Sudley*, and Baronet;
Member of His Majeſty's moſt Honourable Privy Council; Lord Lieutenant and Cuſtos Rotulorum of the County of *Radnor*; High Steward of *Cantremelith*; Chancellor of the Univerſity of *St. Andrews* in *Scotland*; Ranger of *Enfield Chace*; and One of the Governors of the *Charter Houſe*: Who was born *January* the 6th 1673,
And departed this Life *Auguſt* the 9, 1744.
Whoſe Modeſty ordered all Encomiums on his Tomb to be avoided; yet, Juſtice to his Memory and Truth tells the Reader, that if a Youth ſpent in conſtant Application to Buſineſs, which tended more to the Good of his Country and Friends than his own, a whole Life paſſed in Acts of the greateſt Humanity and Charity, forgiving every one, and giving to the uttermoſt of his Power, ended in an old Age dedicated to Patience, Reſignation, and Piety, deſerves from Mankind Gratitude and Love, they are moſt ſtrictly his Due.

He married, firſt, *Mary*, Daughter of Sir *Thomas Lake*, of *Cannons*, in *Middleſex*, by whom he left Iſſue ye Moſt Noble *Henry* Duke of *Chandos*—his Second Wife was *Caſſandra*, Daughter of Sir *Francis Willoughby* of *Woollaton*, and Siſter of *Thomas* Lord *Willoughby*—his Third Wife was *Lydia Catherine*, Daughter of *John Vanhattem* Eſqr, and Widow of Sr *Thomas Davall*, who was Member of Parliament, and died in the Year 1714.

" *Maria*

" *Maria Brydges.* No. LV.
Multis ornata virtutibus fœmina.
Thomam Lake Equitem Auratem de *Cannons*, in Com' *Middleſexiæ*,
et *Rebeccam*, *Johannis Langham* Baronetti de *Cottesſbrooke*,
in Com' *Northan'*, filiam, parentes habuit;
Honorabili *Jacobo Brydges* (jam de *Carnarvon* Comiti)
Prænobilis *Jacobi* Domini *Chandos* filio natu maximo
Feliciter nupſit, eumque novenâ prole patrem fecit:
Primo genitum ad auræ vitalis uſum non produxit;
Jacobum, *Thomam*, *Lancelottum*, *Mariam*, *Carolum*, *Rebeccam*,
(Hic matrem juxta ſepultos)
Ipſa deflevit miſera:
Johannem Dominum *Chandos* et *Henricum*
Chariſſima viro pignora reliquit, adhuc ſuperſtites,
Et o longum utinam ſuper-futuros!
Vale Conjux
Amata plurimum et amantiſſima;
Vitæ heu nimium brevis, ſed pulchræ ſanctæq' peractæ,
Æternis in Chriſto præmiis fruere!
Tuum interitum hic non ſilebunt,
Vel liberalitatem pauperes,
Vel manſuetudinem domeſtici,
Vel caritatem amici,
Vel benevolentiam cognati,
Vel indulgentiam filij.
Exiguum magni amoris monumentum
Hoc tibi marmor ſtatuo,
Tui ſemper tuarumq' virtutum memor.
Jacobus Comes de *Carnarvon*.
An. Dom. 1717.
Natu *Aug.* 1666.
Nupta *Feb.* 1696.
Mortua *Dec*, 1712."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *Stanmore Parva*.

" The Regiſter of *Stanmore Parva*, in the County of *Mid-* No. LVI.
dleſex.

" Burials, 1771.

" The moſt noble *Henry* Duke of *Chandois*, Marquis and Earl of *Carnarvon*, &c. was buried *December* the 12th."

The Witneſs acquainted the Committee, that he had examined all the ſaid Copies with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were ſeverally read.

Then the Pedigree of *James* Duke of *Chandos* deceaſed, proved before the Committee of Privileges, on the 28th Day of *February* 1774, and duly certified by his Grace, on the ſame Day, purſuant to the Standing Order of the Houſe, was read, as follows:

No. LVII.

JAMES BRYDGES, DUKE of CHANDOS, &c.

First Wife.

Mary, eldeſt Daughter and at length Co-heir of Charles Bruce, Lord Bruce of Whorlton, afterwards Earl of Aileſbury, Elgin, &c.; married 21ſt of December 1728, by Special * Licence, in the Pariſh of St. Martin in the Fields, in the County of Middleſex; died 14th of Auguſt 1738; buried at Whitchurch the 22d of ſame Month.

= HENRY BRYDGES, Duke of Chandos, Marquis and Earl of Caernarvon, Viſcount Wilton in the County of Hereford, and Baron Chandos of Sudeley Caſtle, in the County of Glocester, Baronet, and Knight of the Bath; died 28th of November 1771; buried at Whitchurch, in the County of Middleſex, the 12th of December following.

Second Wife.

= Anne Jefferyes, of the Pariſh of St. Marylebone, married 25th December 1744 at Mr. Keith's Chapel, in the Pariſh of St. George, Hanover Square; died 9th Auguſt 1759; buried at Whitchurch, 30th of the ſame Month.

Third Wife.

= Elizabeth, Second Daughter and Co-heir of Sir John Major of Worlingworth Hall in the County of Suffolk, Baronet; married at Weſtham in the County of Eſſex, 18th July 1767, —now living.

* Lic. Extra. in the Office of the Vicar General, dated 21ſt December 1728, ſhe then aged about 28 Years.

Margaret, ſole Daughter and Heir of John Nicoll of Cony Hatch, in the County of Middleſex, Eſq. by Margaret his Wife, Daughter and Heir of Benj[n] Poole of London, Eſq. and Relict of John Keck of Great Tew, in Com' Oxon', Eſq; married 22d of March 1753, at St. George's Church, Hanover Square; died 14th Auguſt 1768, buried at Whitchurch aforeſaid, without Iſſue, the 29th of the ſaid Month.

= JAMES BRYDGES, Duke of Chandos, Marquis and Earl of Caernarvon, Viſcount Wilton, and Baron Chandos, and Baronet, only Son and Heir, born the 16th of December 1731, in the Pariſh of St. James, Weſtminſter, and baptized 11th of January following.

CAROLINE BRYDGES, only Daughter by the Firſt Venter; born 20th March 1729-30, in the Pariſh of St. James, Weſtminſter; baptized 15 April following.

= James Leigh of Addleſtrop, in the County of Gloceſter, Eſq; married 10th March 1755, at Ludgerſhall in the County of Wilts.

James Henry Leigh, only Child, born 8th of February 1765, at Addleſtrop aforeſaid, and baptized the ſame Day.

AUGUSTA ANN BRYDGES only Child by the Second Venter; born 6th October 1748, in the Pariſh of St. George, Hanover Square; baptized 30th of the ſame Month; now living unmarried.

I do certify this Pedigree to be true, to the beſt of my Knowledge, Information, and Belief, upon my Honour.

Feb. 28, 1774. CHANDOS.

Then, HENRY JOHN KEARNEY Eſq; was called in, and having been previouſly ſworn, acquainted the Committee, That he was the Son of the Reverend *John Kearney* and *Henrietta* his Wife: That the ſaid *Henrietta* was a Daughter of the Reverend Doctor *Henry Bridges* Archdeacon of *Rocheſter*, who was Brother to the Firſt Duke of *Chandos:* That he knew *James* the late Duke of *Chandos* very well, alſo Mr. *James Bridges* of *Pinner Hill*; that he was Uncle to the Witneſs, and his Mother's Brother. Being aſked, if he knew Mr. *Robert Bridges* of *Cirenceſter*, in the County of *Glouceſter*, he ſaid, No, he never ſaw him; but he was alſo an Uncle of his, and the elder Brother of the ſaid *James Bridges*. Being aſked, if Doctor *Henry Bridges* had any other Son; he ſaid, Never that he knew of, but by Hearſay, a Son who died young. Being aſked, if either his Uncles *Robert* or *James* were now alive; he ſaid, No, they were both dead. Being aſked, if *James* the laſt Duke of *Chandos* had any Iſſue Male, he ſaid, never, as he believed, nor did he ever hear of his having had any. Being aſked, if his Uncle *James Bridges* of *Pinner Hill* ever had any Iſſue; he ſaid, he was very ſure he never had. Being aſked, if there was any Thing particular in the Condition of his Uncle *Robert*, as he had never ſeen him; he ſaid, he was a Lunatic, and confined ever ſince he, the Witneſs, knew any Thing of the Family. Being aſked, if he had ever heard that *Robert* had left any Iſſue; he ſaid, he never was married.

No. LVIII. Then, the Witneſs produced Letters of Adminiſtration of the Effects of *Robert Brydges* deceaſed, granted to *James Brydges*, dated 9th *December* 1779.

The ſame were read.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced Copies of ſeveral Entries, in the Regiſtry of *Stanmore*, which, he ſaid, he had examined with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were read, and are as follow:

No. LIX. "The Rev^{d} and Hon'ble Doctor *Henry Brydges*, Son of the Right Hon'ble *James* Lord *Chandois*, &c. died the 9^{h} *May* 1728, in the 54^{h} Year of his Age."

No. LX. "Maſt^{r} *James Brydges*, 2^{d} Son of the Hon'ble Dr *Henry Brydges* and *Annabella* his Wife, was born ye 29 *April* 1723, & died ye 26 of *May* following."

No. LXI. "*James Brydges* Eſq^{r}, Son of the Honble and Revd Dr *Henry Brydges*, Brother to *James* Firſt Duke of *Chandos*, died *July* 12, 1789, aged 63 Years."

To

To prove that *John Bridges* of *The Mythe* bequeathed his Property, and amongſt other Parts of it his Manor of *Biſhop's Cleeve*, to *Richard Buckle* and *Elizabeth Venables* (now *Elizabeth Dowdeſwell*), and made no Mention in his Will of any Iſſue of his own,

Mr. *Robert Harriſon* was again called in, and produced the original Will of *John Bridges* of *The Mythe*, bearing Date 18th *December* 1730.

The ſame was read.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Francis Townſhend* was again called in, and produced a Book, which, he acquainted the Houſe, contained the original Viſitation of the County of *Southampton* in the Year 1686.

Read, from the ſame, the following Entry, which the Witneſs ſaid was made in the College of Arms on the 11th *December* 1686.

" 1686. Viſitation of *Hants*, in which there is the following Pedigree: No. LXII.

The Arms of Bridges are quartered by this Family with the Diſtinction of a Fourth Son, viz. a Martlet.

Sir John Bruges, Knt. 1ſt Lord Shandoys, and Baron of Shudley. = Elizabeth Da. of Edmond Lord Grey.

Richard Bruges Eſq. 5th Son. = Daughter of —— Floyd.

Richard Moore, ſometime of Hanwell, Com. Oxon. but laſt of Rotherwick, Com. Hants. ob. circa Ann. 1663. Ætat. circiter 63 Annor'. = Frances, Daughter and Heir of Richard Bruges Eſq.

John Bruges Eſq. ob. circa Anno 1656 vel 1657. Sepultus apud Cirenceſter in Com. Glouceſter.

Horatio Moore of the Inner Temple, London, Barriſter at Law, ob. Anno 1659. Æt. 40 Annor'. = Anne, Daughter of —— Tyler of London.

Being aſked, if the Arms of the Family were in the ſame Page, —He ſaid, The Arms were thoſe of the Family of *Moore*, quartering the Arms of *Brydges*, with the filial Diſtinction for the 4th Son.

Being aſked, if he could account for that Circumſtance, it appearing upon the Face of the Pedigree, that he was the 5th Son—He ſaid, He accounted for it thus: That the Part of the Family of *Brydges*, in the Entry juſt read, was evidently drawn from the former Entry in the Viſitation of *Hereford*, in the Year 1634; for that the Book in his Hand referred to that Viſitation: That it appeared by that Viſitation, that *Henry* the 4th Son, in order of Birth, had died without Iſſue; and therefore the Mark of the 4th Son was placed in this Entry, becauſe this was the 4th Son who left Iſſue.

Being aſked, whether he had ſeen the Monument of *Henry* the 4th Son — He ſaid, He had ſeen a Monument of *Henry Brydges*, who was ſtated on that Monument to be a Son of Lord *Chandos*.—Being aſked, if there was the filial Diſtinction marked on the Monument—He ſaid, The Arms are on the Monument, and they have the Martlet, which is the Diſtinction for the 4th Son.

He was directed to withdraw.

To prove that Sir *John Brydges*, in his Will, named his Sons in their Order of Birth, and deviſed the Reſidue of his Eſtate to his Two younger Sons, *Anthony* and *Richard*;

Mr. *Robert Harriſon* was again called in, and produced a Book, which he acquainted the Committee he brought from the Eccleſiaſtical Court, purporting to be a Regiſtry of Wills copied from the Originals into the ſaid Book.

Read, from the ſame, ſeveral Extracts from the Will of *John Brydges*.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. JOHN WATERS was called in, and having been previouſly ſworn, produced a Copy of the following monumental Inſcription in the Church of *Maidſtone* in *Kent*; which, he acquainted the Committee, he had examined with the Original; and that the ſame was a true Copy.

The ſame was read, as follows;

No. LXIII. "Death hath added to the Ornaments of this Place, the "bleſſed Memorialls of the moſt accompliſhed Gent. by Vir- "tue and Parts, Sr *John Aſtley* Knight, onely Sonne and Heire "of *John Aſtley* Eſquire, Maſter of the Jeweils, &c.; who, "from his tender Yeares, attended on Queen *Elizab^th* in Her "Honble Band of Pentioners, and after was M^r of the Revells "to King *James* and King *Charles*. He married *Catherine* "*Bridges*, Daught^r of *Anthony Bridges*, Brother to the Lord "*Edmond Bridges*, Baron *Chandois*, of *Sudeley Caſtle*, by whom "having

" having had Iſſue divers Children, they all died before him; ſo " that in ye Diſpoſitio* of his Lands he affectionately acknow- " ledged both his Name and his Nephewes, and left the Care of " his other Bequeſt in his Will to *William Harriſon* Gent. the " Queen's Atturney in the Court of Com'on Pleas, his Exe- " cutor; who, out of due Regard to ye Performance thereof, " and pious Reſpect to ye Memory of his Hoble Frend, hath " conſtructed this Monument.

" Ob. 26to *Die Januii* Aº Dñi 1639."

* Sic in Orig.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* being again called in, produced Copies of the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *All Saints, Maidſtone*, which, he acquainted the Committee, he had examined with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were read; and are as follow:

" Burials. *All Saints, Maidſtone*, 1636, *July* 15th. No. LXIV.
" *Robert Brydges* Eſquier."* * Sic in Orig.

" Baptized. *All Saints, Maidſtone*, 1603, 25 *Mar. Edward* No. LXV.
and *Ann*, Son and Daughter of *Robert Brydges* Eſquier." † † Sic in Orig.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Robert Harriſon* being again called in, produced the original Will of Sir *John Aſtley*, dated 3d *January* 1689.

Read, an Extract from the ſame; being a Bequeſt to *Agnes Brydges*, Niece of Dame *Katherine* (the Teſtator's Wife) of 1000 *l.*; alſo of the Furniture of a Chamber, where the ſaid *Agnes* did uſually lie.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* being again called in, acquainted the Committee, that he had examined the Regiſtry of *All Saints, Maidſtone*; and that the earlieſt Entry in it was of the 33d Year of *Hen.* 8.

Being aſked, if he had not already produced a Copy of the Regiſtry of the Burial of *Robert Brydges*, he ſaid, he had; and that he had looked back, to ſee if there was any Regiſtry of the Baptiſm of *Robert Brydges*, but could find none: That, in ſearching to ſee if there was any Perſon of the Name of *Brydges* mentioned in the ſaid Regiſtry, previous to the Entry of the Burial of *Robert*, in 1636, he found an Entry of *Alexander Brydges*, chriſtened 17th *January* 1543; and that he could with

Certainty

Certainty ſay, that was the only Perſon of the Name of *Brydges* mentioned in the ſaid Regiſtry previous to the Year 1636.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *John Waters* was again called in, and produced the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *Faverſham*, in the County of *Kent*.

No. LXVI. " *Edward Bridges* and *Katherine Sharpe*, married *June* 18th, 1627.

No. LXVII. " Buried, *Sept.* the 25th 1632, *John Bridge*.

No. LXVIII. " Buried, *Novr.* the 29th 1631, *Edward Bridge*.

No. LXIX. " Buried, *Decr.* 23rd 1632, *Robert Bridges*.

No. LXX. " Baptized, *Sepr* the 28th 1634, *John*, S. of *Edward Bridge* and *Katherine*; born in *Oſpringe*."

Alſo, Copies of the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *Oſpringe*, in the County of *Kent*.

No. LXXI. " *Augt* 16, 1629.

" *John*, ye Sonne of *Edwarde Bridges*, baptiz *Novr* 18."

No. LXXII. " *Novr.* 18th 1631.

" An Infant Son off *Edwd. Bridges*, yt dyed ſoone after it was baptized."

No. LXXIII. " *Decr* 23rd 1632.

" *Rob.* ye Son of *Edwd. Bridges*, dyed in *Oſpringe*, but was buried in *Fevſham*."

No. LXXIV. " *Sepr* 28th 1634.

" *John*, the Son of *Edwd Bridges* and *Catherine* his Wife, borne in *Oſpringe*, but baptized in *Fevſham*, in ye Liberty wtof they are."

The Witneſs acquainted the Committee, that he had examined all the above Copies with the Originals, and that the ſame were true Copies.

The ſame were read.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced Copies of the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *Saint Andrew, Canterbury*, with the Certificate of the Reverend *William Gregory* Rector.

John

" *John Bridges*, Son of *John* and *Mary*, was baptized *October* 11th 1680. No. LXXV.

" *Edward Bridges*, Son of *John* and *Mary*, was baptized *Nov*r 3d 1682.

" *Thomas Bridges*, Son of *John* and *Mary*, was baptized *March* 10th 1683.

" *Robert Bridges*, Son of *John* and *Mary*, was baptized *Aug*t 17th 1685.

" *Robert*, Son of *John Bridges*, was buried *Dec*r 8th 1692.

" *Mary Bridges* was buried *Oct*r 2d 1694.

" *John Bridges* was buried *Nov*r 28th 1699."

" I certify that all the above are true Extracts from the Regiſter Book of Marriages, Chriſtenings, and Burials, belonging to the Pariſh Church of *Saint Andrew the Apoſtle*, in the City of *Canterbury*.

Wm GREGORY, Rector."

" *Canterbury*, *Dec.* 12th 1789."

Mr. Solicitor General acquainted the Committee they would next produce ſeveral Family Deeds, the Names of the Parties to which Deeds were material, though the Limitations were not ſo.

Accordingly the Witneſs produced an Indenture of Settlement upon the Marriage of *John Brydges* of *Grays Inn*, Gentleman, and *Jane Gibbon* of the City of *Canterbury*, Spinſter, of the one Part, and *Dorothy Coppin* of the ſaid City of *Canterbury*, of the other Part, dated 20th *Auguſt* 1704, and executed by the ſaid Parties, and atteſted by Three Witneſſes. No. LXXVI.

Alſo, a certain other Indenture of Releaſe, of the ſame Date, between *Dorothy Coppin* of the one Part, and *John Bridges* of the other Part, and executed by the ſaid *Dorothy*; by which, in Conſideration of an intended Marriage between the ſaid *John Bridges* and *Jane Gibbon*, the ſaid *Dorothy Coppin* conveys certain Lands in *Kent* to the ſaid *John Bridges*.

Alſo, a certain other Indenture, bearing Date the 10th Day of *May* 1709, between *Thomas Brydges* of the *Middle Temple*, *London*, Gentleman, of the one Part, and *John Brydges* of *Grays Inn*, of the other Part, and executed by the ſaid *Thomas Brydges*, by which he conveyed certain Lands in *Kent*, for valuable Conſideration, to the ſaid *John Bridges*, and containing a Covenant by the ſaid *Thomas Brydges* againſt the Acts of *Edward Brydges* and *Katherine* his Wife, the Grandfather and Grandmother of the ſaid *Thomas Brydges*. No. LXXVII.

The Witneſs being aſked, from whence the ſaid ſeveral Inſtruments came—Said, he received them from Mr. *Egerton Bridges* the Brother of the Claimant.

The ſame were ſeverally read.

Then, the Witneſs produced Copies of the following Entries, in the Regiſtry of *Saint Mary Magdalen, Canterbury*, together with the Certificate of *James Ford* Rector, and the Atteſtation of the Witneſs.

The ſame were read.

No. LXXVIII. No. LXXIX. No. LXXX.

" *John*, Sonn of Mr *John Bridges* and *Jane* his Wife, was baptized, *October* 8th 1707.

" *John*, Sonn of *John Bridges* Gent. and *Anne* his Wife, was baptized, *May* 3^d 1709.

" *John*, Sonn of Mr *John Bridges* Gent. and *Ann* his Wife, was baptized, *July* 13th 1710.

" *Edward*, Sonn of Mr *John Bridges* and *Ann* his Wife, was baptized, *January* 15, 1712.

" The above are true Extracts from the Pariſh Regiſter of *St. Mary Magdalene*, in the City of *Canterbury*.

" JAMES FORD, Rector."

" 12th *Dec.* 1789. —Examined the above Regiſters with the original Reg^r Book of Baptiſms, *&c.* kept for the ſaid Pariſh, and of which they are true Copies.—Examined the ſame with the above named *James Ford*.

" C. COULTHURST."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *St. Alphage, Canterbury*, certified by *George Hearne* Rector.

No. LXXXI. No. LXXXII.

Extract from the Regiſters of *St. Alphage, Canterbury*, by *George Hearne* Rector, *December* the 12th 1789.

" *Feb^r* ye 3^d 1709.—*John*, the Son of *John* and *Jane Bridges* of *Burgate*, Bur^d.

" *July* ye 15th 1712.—Mr *John Bridges* of *Burgate*, Bur^d, *May* 3, 1739. *Jane Bridges* Bur^d.

" *Geo: Hearne*, Rect^r of St *Alphage, Canterbury*."

Mr. Solicitor General ſtated, that in Three of the above Entries the Wife of *John Bridges* was deſcribed by the Name of *Anne*—and deſired the Witneſs might be aſked, Whether the Regiſter of the ſaid Pariſh had not been kept in an irregular Manner?

The Witneſs ſaid, when he ſearched the Regiſter of *St. Mary Magdalen*, there was a Memorandum at the Beginning of it; and the Purport of it was this; " Note, This Book was kept by the Pariſh Clerk, and it is not very accurate, and ſo it may appear from the wording and ſpelling."

Mr.

Mr. Solicitor General ſtated, they would next produce certain other Family Deeds to ſhew that the Word "*Anne*," in the above Entries, was clearly a Miſtake for "*Jane*."

Accordingly, the Witneſs produced a certain Indenture bearing Date the 24th *July*, 1712, and made between *Suſan Garrett* of *Wootton* Widow, and One of the Siſters of *John Coppin* deceaſed, of the Firſt Part; *Thomas Bridges* of the *Middle Temple, London*, Gentleman, of the Second Part; and *Edward Bridges*, youngeſt Son of *John Bridges*, late of *Gray's Inn*, deceaſed, by *Jane* his Wife, of the Third Part; and executed by the ſaid *Jane Garrett*. No. LXXXIII.

Alſo, a certain other Indenture bearing Date the 20th of *October* 1732, between *Jane Bridges*, of the City of *Canterbury*, Widow, of the One Part, and *John Bridges*, of the ſame City, Gentleman, elder Son of the ſaid *Jane Bridges*, of the other Part; and executed by *Jane Bridges*. No. LXXXIV.

Alſo, a certain other Indenture bearing Date, 5th *February* 1746, and made between *John Bridges* of *Wootton*, in the County of *Kent*, Eſquire, and *Edward Bridges*, of the ſame, Eſquire, the only Sons and Heirs of the Body of *John Bridges*, late of the City of *Canterbury*, Eſquire, by *Jane* his Wife, both deceaſed, of the Firſt Part; *Thomas Creed* of *Canterbury* and *Mary Creed* of the ſame, of the Second Part; and *Benjamin Chandler* of *Canterbury*, of the Third Part; and executed by the ſaid Parties. No. LXXXV.

The Witneſs acquainted the Committee, that he received the ſaid ſeveral Inſtruments from Mr. *Egerton Bridges*.

The ſame were read.

The Witneſs next produced an Office Copy of the Will of *John Bridges*, of the City of *Canterbury*, Eſquire, dated 7th *July* 1712, by which he appoints his Wife *Jane* ſole Executrix, proved by the ſaid *Jane* on the 25th *July* 1712. No. LXXXVI.

The ſame was read.

The Witneſs next produced Letters of Adminiſtration of the Effects of *John Bridges*, granted 24th *January* 1781, to *Jemima Bridges* Widow, and ſole Executrix of his Brother *Edward* deceaſed. No. LXXXVII.

The ſame were read.

The Witneſs next produced a Copy of the following Entries in the Regiſtry of *Wootton*, in the County of *Kent*, and alſo of a Monumental Inſcription in the Church of the ſame.

No. LXXXVIII. No. LXXXIX. No. XC.

Extracts from the Regiſter of the Pariſh of *Wootton*, in the County of *Kent*; by *Edward Tymewell Bridges*, Rector there, *December* the 12th 1789.

" *Ann*, the Daughter of *Edward Bridges* Eſq^r, and *Jemima Egerton* his Wife, was baptized *March* 22d 174$\frac{7}{8}$.

" *Edward Tymewell*, Son of *Edward Bridges* Eſq^r, and *Jemima* his Wife was baptized *June* 18th 1749.

" *Jane*, Daughter of *Edward Bridges* Eſq^r, and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *November* the Eighth Day 1750.

" *John*, Son of *Edward Bridges* Eſq^r, and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *Auguſt* 8th 1752.

" *Deborah Jemima*, Daughter of *Edward Brydges*, Eſq^r, and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *March* 23d 1755.

" *John Egerton*, Son of *Edward Brydges* Eſquire, and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *Feb.* 1, 1758.

" *Charlotte Jemima Chriſtian*, Daughter of *Edward Brydges* Eſq. and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *July* 31, 1759.

" *Samuel Egerton*, Son of *Edward Brydges* Eſquire, and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *Dec.* 1, 1762.

" *John William Head*, Son of *Edward Brydges* Eſq^r. and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *July* the 5th 1764.

" *Charlotte*, Daughter of *Edward Brydges* Eſquire, and *Jemima* his Wife, was baptized *May* the 2d, 1766."

" Burials.

" *John Brydges* Eſq^r. (eldeſt Son of *John Brydges* Eſquire, Barriſter at Law, by *Jane*, only Daughter of *Edward Gibbon* Eſq^r. of *Weſtcliffe*, near *Dover*, by *Martha*, Dau. of Sr *John Roberts* Knt. which *John Brydges* died in 1712, and was buried in the Church of *St. Alphage, Canterbury)* of *Wootton Court*, Ætatis 70, *April* 30th 1780, Batchelor, A. B.

" *Edward Brydges* Eſq^r. Æt. 69, Brother to the late *J. Brydges* Eſq^r. Lord of the Manor of *Wooton*, *Nov.* 26. A. R. 1780.

" 12th *Dec.* 1789. Then examined the above with the Pariſh Regiſter of *Wooton*, in the County of *Kent*, of which they are true Copies.

" LOTT BAKER, Pariſh Clerk."

No XCI.

" Near this Place lies interred the Body of *John Brydges* Eſq^r. who died *April* 22d 1780, Æt. 69.

" Alſo the Body of *Edward Brydges* Eſquire, who died *Nov.* 19th 1780, Æt. 68."

" Theſe Two Brothers, after having received a liberal Education, choſe a Life of Retirement, which they paſſed together, being united not only by a ſtrong Affection, but by an uncom-

mon Benevolence of Heart, which mutually inclined them daily to promote the Happineſs of all around them. The unfeigned Sorrow which the Inhabitants of this Village, and an extenſive Neighbourhood, diſcovered at their Death, ſpeaks at once to the Heart their uncommon Virtues, and renders the Pomp of Epitaph vain and uſeleſs.

"*John Bridges* died a Bachelor.

"*Edward Bridges* married *Jemima*, Daughter and Coheir of *William Egerton*, D. D.; and has left her, with Three Sons and Five Daughters, to lament his Loſs, and revere his beloved Memory."

Alſo, a Copy of the following Entry in the Regiſtry of *St. Bennett's Paul's Wharf*, in the City of *London*. No. XCII.

"The Regiſter of Marriages in the Pariſh of *St. Benedict, Paul's Wharfe*, in the City of *London*.

"Marriages in 1746-7.

"*Edward Bridges* Eſq^r, of *Wooton*, in *Kent*, B. and *Jemima Egerton*, of *Lullingſtone*, in *Kent*. 3d *March* 1746-7."

The Witneſs acquainted the Committee, that the ſaid ſeveral Copies were true Copies.

The ſame were read.

He was directed to withdraw.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Die Veneris, 18° *Febrij* 1791.

Lord *Cathcart* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read. *Chandos* Peerage.

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.

The Counſel were called in,—and Mr. *Harvey*, of Counſel for the Claimant, deſired Mr. *Conrade Coulthurſt* might be called in, to prove an Entry in the Regiſtry of *Stanmore Parva*, which had been miſlaid Yeſterday.

Accordingly Mr. *Coulthurſt* was again called in, and produced a Copy of the following Entry, which he ſaid he had compared with the Original in the Regiſtry of *Stanmore Parva*, and that the ſame was a true Copy.

The ſame was read, and is as follows:

" The Moſt Honourable *John* Marquis of *Carnarvon*, died *April* 8th, 1727, aged 24." No. XCIII.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then THOMAS WALDRON was called in, and having been previouſly ſworn, was examined as follows:

Where have you lived all your Life-time?

I was born in *Tewkeſbury*, and never lived out of the Town Six Weeks together from that Day to this.

What Age are you?

I want about Seven Days of 83,—I was born on the 14th of *February* 1708.

Did you know *John Bridges*?

Very well. He lived in a pleaſant Spot near the Town of *Tewkeſbury* called *The Mythe*.

Do you recollect at what Time he died?

I fancy it is about Fifty Years ago; but I am not certain.

Where was he buried?

In the Chancel of *Tewkeſbury* Church.

Do you know what Age he might be of at the Time of his Death; was he old or young?

An old Man, I ſuppoſe not far diſtant from Seventy; but am not certain. I have ſeen his Grave-ſtone many Times, and obſerved the Inſcription; but have forgot the Time.

Had he been married in his Life-time?

Twice. His firſt Wife was Juſtice *Buckle*'s Daughter of *Chaceley*.

Is *Chaceley* in the Neighbourhood of *Tewkeſbury*?

About a Mile and a Half, or Two Miles from it.

Had he any Children by his Firſt Wife?

I never heard that he had.

Who was his Second Wife?

The Widow of *Thomas Kemble* of *Tewkeſbury*.

Whoſe Daughter was ſhe?

I have heard ſhe was one Mr. *Mitchell*'s Daughter of *Cheltenham*. I knew her very well: She had Three Sons by her Firſt Huſband.

Had ſhe any Children by Mr. *Bridges*?

I believe not: I muſt have heard of it if ſhe had, living ſo near; but I never heard any ſuch Thing.

Did *John Bridges* live at the *Mythe* all his Time?

I never knew that he lived any where elſe.

Did you know *Richard Buckle*?

Very well.

Did he live with *John Bridges*?

He did: He was a Nephew of his Firſt Wife, I believe.

Whom did he marry?

He married with Miſs *Elizabeth Venables*.

Was ſhe an Acquaintance of *John Bridges*?

Her Father and Mr. *Bridges* were intimate; and he appointed Mr. *Bridges* her Guardian.

Is that Lady living now?

Yes; I ſaw her juſt now.

Who got this *Mythe* Houſe and Eſtate after the Death of *John Bridges*?

Mr. *Buckle*, who married Miſs *Elizabeth Venables*.

Who is the Owner of that Eſtate now?

I believe Mr. *William Buckle*, a Grandſon of Mr. *Richard Buckle* and Miſs *Venables*.

Do you happen to know, Whether there was a Perſon of the Name of *Gyles Bridges* living at *Tewkeſbury*?

He was the Brother of *John*; but I did not rightly know him.

Was he dead before you could remember?

I did not know him, but I have ſeen his Grave-ſtone.

Did you ever hear of any Iſſue of *Gyles*?

I never heard of any; nor ever heard that he was married.

Did you ever hear of any other Brothers of *John*, except *Gyles*?

No.

Had he any Siſters?

He had a Siſter.

What was her Name?

She was married to *Thomas Neaſt*, of *Trinning*.

Had ſhe any Children by him?

I never heard that ſhe had. But ſhe had a Second Huſband, and had Children by him.

What was his Name?

Higford.

Did *John Bridges* ever, in Converſation, tell you of what Family he was?

I never heard any ſuch Converſation; but I have heard my Grandfather, who was very intimate with him, ſay he was a Relation of the Duke of *Chandos*.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then Mrs. ELIZABETH DOWDESWELL was called in; and having been previouſly ſworn, was examined as follows:

What Age are you?

I am in my 79th Year.

What was your Maiden Name?

Elizabeth Venables.

Did you know *John Bridges* of *The Mythe*?

Certainly.

How long has he been dead?

He died in the Year 1731.

Did you live in his Family at any Time before his Death?

I lived with him at the Time of his Death; and ſaw him Half an Hour before he died.

Had you lived with him any Time before?
All my Life-time, except when I was at School.

What Family was he of?
Of the *Chandos* Family. I have often heard him ſay, he ſhould be Heir to the Duke, before the laſt Duke was born.

Had he been married in his Life-time?
Twice.

Did you ever hear of his having any Children by either of his Wives?
He never had a Child, I am very ſure.

Did you know any Brothers of *John?*
I did not know them, but have often heard of Two.

Did you hear of them from *John* himſelf?
Yes, from himſelf.

Do you recollect his having told you their Names?
Gyles and *Edward,* I believe, but am not quite ſure. One of them died at *Conſtantinople* in Attendance upon the Duke.

Was that *Gyles?*
No; he died at *The Mythe.*

Was there a Brother of the Name of *Charles?*
I am not ſure.

Had they any Children?
They both died Bachelors, I have often heard.

Did you hear *John Bridges* ſay ſo?
I think I have. They are both buried at *Tewkeſbury.* I muſt have heard of it, if they had Children, as I lived ſo long in the Family.

What was the Name of your firſt Huſband?
Richard Buckle.

Was *John Bridges* alive when you married that firſt Huſband?
Yes; juſt Three Days. I was married the Third of *April,* and he died on the Sixth.

Was it with his Approbation?
Quite.

What became of his Eſtate?
He left it to my Huſband and me, moſt of it; paying Legacies.

The Counſel for the Claimant deſired, that the Letters produced and given in Evidence by the Witneſs before the Houſe laſt Year, might be ſhewn to her.

They

They were accordingly ſhewn to the Witneſs; and ſhe was aſked,

Do you recollect producing theſe Papers to the Houſe laſt Year?

Yes; I know them, by the Colour of them.

Where did you find them?

Amongſt other Papers of the Family.

Do you mean, amongſt Mr. *John Bridges*'s Papers?

Yes; amongſt *John Bridges*'s Papers.

When did you find them?

I cannot recollect, there were ſuch Quantities of Papers; but I found them whilſt I was reading over the Papers purely by Chance.

When did you firſt mention your having found them to Mr. *Bridges*' (the Claimant's) Family?

Never till I was here before. I never ſaw any of the Family before.

Then one of the Papers was ſhewn to the Witneſs; and ſhe was aſked,

Do you know that Hand-writing?

This is the Hand-writing I thought was wrote by Mr. *Parſons*, the Attorney employed by Mr. *John Bridges*.

Mr. Sollicitor General ſtated, that the Papers being already upon the Journals of the Houſe, it might be unneceſſary to have them read.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mrs. JEMIMA BRIDGES was called in; and having been previouſly ſworn, was examined, as follows:

Are you, in any Way, related to the Claimant?

I am his Mother.

What was the Name of your Huſband?

Edward Bridges.

When were you married to him?

In the Year 1747.

At what Church?

At *St. Hallows, Doctors Commons*.

Is the Claimant your eldeſt Son by Mr. *Bridges*?

He is.

When

When was he born?
In the Year 1749.

In what Year did your Huſband die?
In *November* 1780.

Where was he buried?
In the Pariſh Church of *Wootton.*

Had he any Brothers?
One.

What was his Name?
John Bridges.

When did he die?
In *April* 1780, at *Wootton Court,* where we lived; and he was buried in *Wootton* Church.

Do you know if Mr. *John Bridges* was married?
Never.

Where did he generally live?
With his Brother.

Do you remember your Huſband having ſaid any Thing, and what, as to what Family he was of?
I frequently heard him ſay he was of the *Chandos* Family.

Did he mention by what Means he had that Information?
He ſaid, that he was too young when his Father died, to have that Information from him; but his Mother told him, he had frequently declared he was of the *Chandos* Family.

Have you heard him ſay this Once or Twice?
Frequently.

From what Time?
From the Time I firſt knew him.

Then, Two Atchievements were produced and ſhewn to the Witneſs; and ſhe was aſked,

Do you know theſe Atchievements?
Perfectly well.

Whom do they belong to?
I found them in *Wootton Houſe* when I married. They hung in a Paſſage that led from the Hall to the Kitchen.

Did they continue there?
They were removed, and carried up into a Garret, upon that Paſſage being papered; and I deſired they might be taken down, becauſe I thought they looked melancholy.

Did

Did you ever hear your Huſband mention, which of theſe Atchievements belonged to his Anceſtors?

I think he ſaid, that with the *Ockman* Arms belonged to his Grandfather.

Did he ever ſay into what Family his Grandfather married?

Into the *Ockman* Family.

You ſaid, you had heard your Huſband repeatedly ſay, from the Time you knew him, that he was of the *Chandos* Family?

Repeatedly.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then, the Reverend GEORGE LEFROY was called in; and having been previouſly ſworn, was examined as follows:

Are you related to this Family?

I am; I married one of the Daughters of the late Mr. *Bridges*.

How long were you acquainted with the late Mr. *Bridges* before his Death?

From the Year 1764.

Were you acquainted with him from that Time to the Time of his Death?

Intimately.

Did you ever hear him, in Converſation, ſay any Thing reſpecting his Family, or of what Family he was?

I have very frequently heard him declare, he was of the *Chandos* Family.

Did he relate to you, why he entertained that Opinion?

He ſaid he was too young himſelf to remember his Father; but his Mother had always told him, it was his Father's Declaration, that he was of the *Chandos* Family.

Then, the Two Atchievements were ſhewn to the Witneſs, and he was aſked,

Have you ſeen thoſe Atchievements?

Very often.

Did you ever hear Mr. *Bridges* ſay whom they were for?

The Atchievement with the double Arms, I have heard him ſay, was the Atchievement of his Grandfather.

Did he name the Family into which his Grandfather married?

Into the *Ockman* Family.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. RICHARD HARVEY was called in, and having been previouſly ſworn, was examined as follows:

Do you know the Pariſh of *Coldred*, in *Kent*?
Very well.

How far diſtant is it from *Wootton*?
It is the next Pariſh but one.

How far is it from *Canterbury*?
About Eleven Miles.

In that Church, is there any Memorandum, or Stone, to the Memory of any Perſon of the Name of *Ockman*?
Yes.

Have you a Copy of any Inſcription there?
Yes.

Then, the Witneſs produced a Paper; and being aſked if that was a true Copy, and whether there were any Arms on the Stone, he ſaid, It was a true Copy, and that the Arms were deſcribed in the ſaid Paper.

Then, the Witneſs delivered in the Paper.

The ſame was read; and is as follows:

" Here lyes the Body of Mrs. *Mary Ockman*, Wife of Captain *William Ockman*, of *Deal*, and Daughter of Captain *Stephen Pilcher*, of this Pariſh. She departed this Life the 18 Day of *July* 1732, aged 68 Years."

" Here alſo lieth interred the Body of the aboveſaid Captain *William Ockman*, who departed this Life the 4th Day of *July*, 1740, aged 70 Years."

Then, One of the Atchievements was ſhewn to the Witneſs, and he was aſked, Whether the Arms on the Stone were the ſame as thoſe on the Woman's Side of the Atchievement?
Yes.

Do any Colours appear to be marked on the Stone?
None.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then,

Then, Mr. *Francis Townſhend, Windſor Herald*, was again called in, and one of the Atchievements being ſhewn to him, he was examined, as follows:

Do you find any Mark of filial Diſtinction in this Atchievement?

The Mark of filial Diſtinction in the Coat of *Bridges*, is of the Third Son.

Croſs-examined by Mr. Attorney General.

Whether at the Period of the Death of this Perſon there was any conſiderable Degree of Regularity with reſpect to Coat Armour?

I muſt beg Leave to refer to the Pedigree, as to that.

In the Year 1699?

It was paſt the Time of Heraldic Viſitation.

Whether in caſe any ſuch Mark of Cadency was uſurped, there was any Authority at that Time to correct it?

Not at that Time, I believe.

He was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. THOMAS QUIN was called in, and, having been previouſly ſworn, was examined, as follows:

Do you belong to the Society of *Gray's Inn*?

I am Steward there.

What is that Book you have in your Hand?

The original Admiſſion Book.

Do you find an Entry of *John Bridges* there?

Yes.

Read it.

The Witneſs read an Extract from the ſame, as follows:

"*Johes Bridges*, Filius natu maximus *Johis Bridges* de Civitate *Cant'* Gen', admiſſus eſt in Societatem hujus Hoſpitij, Sexto Die *Maij*, Anno D'ni 1699.

"W. DIXON Theſaur'."

He was directed to withdraw.

The Counſel for the Claimant informed the Committee, they had no further Evidence to offer.

Mr. Attorney General requeſted the Committee would give him Time to have an actual Inſpection of the Regiſtries from whence

whence the Entries given in Evidence had been taken; he being inſtructed, that ſuch Inſpection would be very material.

Mr. Solicitor General, for the Claimant, acquainted the Committee, that he had no Objection.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Die Jovis, 10° *Aprilis* 1794.

The Lord Biſhop of *Bangor* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read.
The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.
The Counſel were called in.

Chandos Peerage.

Then Mr. JAMES TAPPENDEN was called in, and having been ſworn, produced a Paper, and was examined as follows:

Where did you get that Inſtrument?
I found it amongſt the Title Deeds of an Eſtate which a Client of mine is about to purchaſe.

In whoſe Poſſeſſion was it?
I received it from Mr. *John Toker*, the Owner of the Eſtate, who was going to ſell it to Mr. *Joſeph Joachin*.

Was it found amongſt the Title Deeds of that Eſtate?
It was.

How did the Claimant, or any Perſons concerned for him, come to the Knowledge of the Exiſtence of ſuch a Deed?
I believe I happened to ſay to Mr. *Harvey*, here preſent, that I had ſome Deeds which belonged to a Family of the Name of *Bridges*; upon which Mr. *Harvey* ſaid, he ſhould deſire Mr. *Bridges* to call on me to look over the Deeds. Mr. *John Bridges* called on me ſoon after, and looked at them all; and amongſt the Reſt that Deed.

Then, the Counſel for the Claimant, being aſked, if they had looked after the Will of *John Bridges*, informed the Houſe, That they had not been able to find a Will of that *John Bridges*.

Then the Witneſs was aſked,

Did you find any Title Deeds, prior to this Deed, in which there was the Name of *Bridges*?
I do not recollect any other; nor that I ſaw any other Deed but this in which the *Bridges'* Family was named.

Did it appear to you how it came to this Gentleman?
No; I never intereſted myſelf at all in the Matter.

Then the ſaid Paper was read, and appeared to be,

" An Indenture, bearing Date 24th *November* 1709, between *Thomas Bridges* of the *Middle Temple*, *London*, of the One Part,

and *Mark Thomas* of the other Part, and conveying from the ſaid *Thomas Bridges* certain Houſes in *Feverſham*, with a Covenant for quiet Enjoyment againſt all Perſons claiming under the ſaid *Thomas Bridges*, or under *John Bridges* his Father, or under *Edward Bridges* and *Katherine* his Wife, the Grandfather and Grandmother of the ſaid *Thomas Bridges*; and alſo containing a Covenant on the Part of the ſaid *Thomas Bridges*, that he and *John Bridges* his Brother would levy a Fine of the ſame Premiſes to the ſaid *Mark Thomas* and his Heirs."

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Harvey*, of Counſel for the Claimant, informed the Houſe, they next propoſed to prove the Marriage of *Anne Bridges* (deſcribed as of *Maidſtone* in *Kent*) with *William Beſt*, from the Records of the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*; the original Regiſter of the Pariſh of *Owre* in *Kent*, where the Marriage was had, being loſt.

Then, the Reverend FRANCIS FREDERIC GIRAUD was called in, and having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

Are you the Miniſter of *Owre*, in the County of *Kent*?
Yes, I am; it is a perpetual Curacy.

How long have you been the perpetual Curate?
Above 30 Years.

What Regiſter Books of that Pariſh have you?

The Witneſs produced a Book; and ſaid,

When I came to it, this Book was put in my Hands, which begins in the Year 1714.

Have you any other?
I have examined every Book and Cheſt in the Church, and every Place where I thought any ſuch Paper might be concealed, where the Pariſh Papers are kept, and could find nothing of it; I enquired of the principal Pariſhioner, and he could give no Account of it; it was ſuppoſed to be taken away by the Vicar of *Ludenham*, the adjoining Pariſh, and he was Curate of the Pariſh of *Owre*.

How far is *Owre* from *Feverſham*?
It is not more than a Mile.

Are they adjoining Pariſhes in any Part?
Yes, they are.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. WILLIAM CULLEN was called in; and having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

Do you belong to the Archbiſhop's Office at *Canterbury*?

I do.

Where do you bring thoſe Papers from, which you have in your Hand?

From the Regiſtry of the Conſiſtory Court of *Canterbury*.

Then the following Extract from the ſaid Papers was read:

" A Copy of all ſuch Chriſtenings, Marriages, and Burials, as happened in the Pariſh of *Owre*, in the Archdeaconry of *Canterbury*, from the Feaſt of the Annunciation in the Year 1640 to the ſame Feaſt 1641."

Alſo, another Extract, as follows:

" Bapt. *Aſteley*, the Sonne of Mr. *William Beſt* and *Anne* his Wife, *March* 14."

And, from the ſame Sheet,

" Married *William Beſt* Gent. and *Anne Bridges* of *Maydſtone*."

Alſo, the Signatures to the ſaid Papers, as follow:

" *Robt Milles*, Curate ibidem.
" *Richd Price*, Churchwarden."

Then, Mr. Attorney General ſtated, That he would next produce a Receipt found by Mr. *Egerton Bridges* amongſt the Family Papers of the Claimant, dated 3d of *April* 1643, and purporting to have been given by *William Beſt* to his Brother *Edward Bridges* for 40 *l.*

Mr. Attorney General was informed, that ſome Account ſhould be given why the above-mentioned Paper, and alſo why the ſeveral other Papers mentioned in the Appendix to the Claimant's Caſe, had not been found ſooner, and in whoſe Cuſtody, and under what Circumſtances, they were now found.

The Witneſs to prove the ſame not being at Hand, he was ordered to attend at the next Sitting of the Committee.

Then, Mr. *William Cullen* produced a Copy of the original Regiſter of the Pariſh of *St. George Canterbury*, which he ſaid he had compared with the Original, and that the ſame was a true Copy.

The

The ſame was read, as follows:

" *Edward Bridges* Gent. buried *Auguſt* 28th, 1646."

Mr. Attorney General ſtated, That he would next produce the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*'s Duplicate of the Regiſter of the Pariſh of *Maidſtone*, in the Year 1603, containing the Births and Burials of *Edward* and *Anne Bridges*, which it would be material to attend to; the Entry in the original Pariſh Regiſter, which he would again produce, having appeared upon the former Inſpection and ſtill appearing to be in recent Ink, and as if written over the original Entry which had been partly defaced by Time.

The Witneſs accordingly produced the original Pariſh Regiſter of *Maidſtone*, in the Year 1603, and the Archbiſhop's Duplicate of the ſame.

The Lords inſpected both, and found the ſeveral Entries exactly correſpond; but it appeared that the Letters of the original Entry had been marked over again with Ink; and alſo that the Letters of ſeveral other Entries in the original Regiſter, which had no relation to this Subject, had likewiſe been marked over again with Ink.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. Attorney General deſired Permiſſion to call Mr. *Tappenden* again, as he wiſhed to correct a Miſtake he had made in giving his Evidence To-day.

Accordingly Mr. *James Tappenden* was again called in.

Then the following Queſtion, put to the Witneſs, and his Anſwer thereto, were read:

' Did you find any Title Deeds prior to this Deed, in which ' there was the Name of *Bridges*?

' I do not recollect any other; nor that I ſaw any other ' Deed but this in which the *Bridges*' Family was named.'

The Witneſs ſaid,

That is a Miſtake; I believe there were Two or Three more Deeds, which I now recollect were prior in Date, and they were all delivered together to Mr. *Bridges*; the Contents I do not recollect at this Moment. I am very ſorry I ſhould have made ſuch a Miſtake, but I did not at the Inſtant recollect them.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Die Martis, 15° *Aprilis* 1794.

The Lord Biſhop of *Bangor* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read.
The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.
The Counſel were called in.

Chandos Peerage.

Then, Lady CAROLINE LEIGH was called in, and having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

You are a Daughter of *Henry* Duke of *Chandos*, and Siſter of the late Duke of *Chandos*?
Yes.

Did you know Mr. *James Bridges* of *Pinner*?
Yes.

Do you recollect paying a Viſit to Mr. *James Bridges* of *Pinner*, in *March* or *April* 1789?
I cannot tell the Month; but it was ſome little Time before the Death of Mr. *Bridges* of *Pinner*.

He was a Relation of yours?
Yes; he was Firſt-Couſin to my Father; and the Son of Doctor *Henry Bridges*.

Do you recollect any Converſation relative to an Accident which had happened to a Lady of the Name of *Maxwell*?
Mr. *Bridges* told me that that Lady was a Relation of ours; that ſhe was Siſter to Mr. *Bridges* of *Kent*, who was Heir to him and the late Duke of *Chandos*, provided the late Duke of *Chandos* ſhould die without a Son.

Was Mr. *James Bridges* at an advanced Period of Life at that Time?
I believe he was near Three Score. I do not exactly know his Age to a Certainty; but I believe it was thereabout.

Did you ſee the late Duke of *Chandos* after you had had this Converſation with Mr. *James Bridges*?
I did.

Did you relate to his Grace the Subſtance of the Converſation you had had with Mr. *Bridges?*

In a ſlight Manner I did.

Have the Goodneſs to ſtate, whether his Grace made any and what Obſervations upon it?

He made very little Obſervation; but, to the beſt of my Recollection, he ſaid, 'I believe the Gentleman is right'—and the Converſation dropt immediately. If Mr. *James Bridges* had outlived the late Duke, he would have ſucceeded to the Barony.

Was there any particular Place in *Kent* mentioned by Mr. *James Bridges?*

I think there was; but I have forgot, and do not now know it.

But you know that the Lady was a Siſter of the preſent Claimant?

Yes; Mr. *Bridges* told me ſo.

Croſs-examined.

Whether you had ever heard of that Family in *Kent*, before the Converſation with Mr. *Bridges* of *Pinner?*

I do not recollect I ever did; otherwiſe than that there was a Family of that Name in *Kent*.

Was there any Connection between that Family in *Kent* and yours?

None that I know of.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then, Lady CATHERINE STANHOPE was called in; and having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

You are the Daughter of *John* the Brother of *Henry*, the Second Duke of *Chandos?*

Yes.

Had you a Siſter?

Yes.

Whom did ſhe marry?

Mr. *James Bridges* of *Pinner*.

Was you acquainted with your Brother-in-law?

Yes.

Did you ever hear him ſpeak of any Mr. *Bridges* of *Kent?*

Upon aſking him, in caſe the late Duke of *Chandos* ſhould die without a Son, whether the Title would be extinct, he ſaid, 'there

'there was a Mr. *Bridges* of *Kent*, who had, if he chose to take 'it up, a Claim to the Peerage.'

Do you recollect whether he did, or did not, describe the Part of *Kent* in which that Mr. *Bridges* resided?

No, I do not recollect.

The Witness was directed to withdraw.

Then, Mr. *Egerton Bridges* was again called in; and, producing a Paper, was examined as follows:

Have you seen that Paper you have in your Hand before?

Yes, I have.

Where did you first find it?

The Witness produced a small Box; and said,

My elder Brother, in my Presence, found it in this Box.

Where did you find that Box?

My elder Brother, in Consequence of a Desire we expressed to him at the End of the former Hearing, looked over his Papers again, and appointed a Day with us to come over and look at them; he had always kept them locked up in a Room up Stairs, which had been a Chamber in my Father's Time, but to which he said he removed them when the House underwent a Repair in the Summer after my Father's Death.

Did you look into that Room?

No, I was never admitted into that Room; but my Brother threw together, in a Basket, a great Quantity of Papers, such as he thought might, by Possibility, not have been seen before; and they were brought together into a Room, called *The Book Room*, at *Wootton*, where we all looked over them together. When we came to this Box, my Brother read the Outside Superscription, and asked me, 'if I had ever heard the Name before.' It is written on, "The Administration of *Clement Mar-* "*ketman:* Goods and Things thereunto belonging of greatest "Consequence." I was very anxious to have the Box inspected, though I did not know the Connection with *Marketman*, and cannot make it out still, yet I thought we ought to look into it.

(Q. *By a Lord.*) Is the whole Inscription the same Writing?

Yes. My Brother then opened it himself in our Presence; that is in the Presence of myself and my Brother *John*; and, upon turning over the Papers One by One, in some short Time he found this: It appeared, when we came to open the Box, that though there were

were few Papers of *Marketman*'s, there were a great many relating to all, or the greater Part of our Alliances.

You found that Paper in that Box?

Yes, my Brother delivered it out of the Box.

Then the Witneſs read the Paper, as follows;

"Received *April* 3d, 1643, of my Brother, Mr. *Edward Bridges*, the Summe of Fortye Pounds, due to my Wyfe from my Cozen *Hamlynes*.

"I ſay, received the Summe of £. 40.

"Per me *William Beſt*."

Then the Witneſs produced a Parchment, and was aſked,

Did you ever ſee that Parchment, now in your Hands, before?

Yes, very often.

(Q. *By a Lord.*) Do you know the Connection of the Family *Hamlynes*?

No; I have never been able to find it out.

Nor of the *Marketmens*?

No; I do not.

(Q. *By Counſel.*) Where did you firſt ſee that Parchment?

I cannot tell; but very often.

In what Place was it uſually?

In my Brother's Private Room at *Wootton*, where he has his Papers.

What does it purport to be?

'A true Plan and Deſcription of all the Lands belonging to *Southend Farm*, in the Pariſh of *Birchington*, in the Iſle of *Thanet*, lately purchaſed of *Daniel Jenker* Gentleman, by *John Bridges* Gentleman, of the City of *Canterbury*, and ſince meaſured by *Robert Flatman*, 1682.' There is alſo in the lower Part of it the Date of 1682.

Does there appear upon that Parchment the Arms and Creſt of any Family?

There appear the Arms and Creſt of the *Chandos* Family, with the Mullet, which is the Mark of the Third Branch.

Then the Witneſs produced another Parchment; and was aſked,

Have you ſeen that Parchment before?

Yes.

Where did you find it?

The Morning after the Evening when we found the Box, my Brother went up again into the Room, which is locked up, and brought this down to my youngeſt Brother and myſelf, and ſaid 'he had never ſeen it before; that it had laid amongſt his Papers, and had eſcaped his Attention.' There are the Arms and Creſt of the *Chandos* Family, with the Mullet, the Mark of the Third Branch.

Then the Witneſs produced another Paper; and was aſked,

Did you ever ſee that Paper before?

Yes.

Where did you find it?

My Brother produced it to me, as I think, that Day; but I am not quite ſure.

What does it purport to be?

'A Releaſe by *Jane Bridges*, heretofore *Jane Silbon*, now Widow and Executrix of *John Bridges* Eſquire deceaſed, to the Executrix of Mr. *John Coppin*, dated 17th *April* 1713.'

Does it appear to be ſealed with any Arms of any particular Family?

With the Arms and Creſt of the *Chandos* Family, with the Mark of the Mullet.

Have you yourſelf made any general Search about your Brother's Writings?

I have made all the Search that lay in my Power; and I have underſtood from my Brother that I have ſeen all the Papers. I have never been in the Room which is locked up where his Papers have been ſince my Father's Death.

Whether you have found any Deeds or Wills relating to the Family prior to the Year 1704?

I recollect ſeeing a Copy of the Will of my Great-Grandfather *John*.

Have you made any Search for that Will?

No; I have not. Having ſeen that Copy ſome Years back, I did not concern myſelf about making Search for it.

Whether you have made any Search for the Settlement of *Anthony Bridges* and *Katherine Forteſcue*?

I have looked for every Thing that could poſſibly relate to the Subject, and I never could find any Thing relative to it; and I have endeavoured to make Enquiries elſewhere: I called on Lord *Romney* ſince the laſt Meeting of the Committee, but he was not in Town, thinking that, by Poſſibility, ſuch a Thing

might be amongſt the Purchaſe Deeds of Lord *Romney*'s Father.

You have not made any actual Search amongſt Lord *Romney*'s Deeds?

No; I have not.

Can you ſay, by what Authority the Name of *Katherine* is given to the Wife of *Anthony*?

I do not know how it came to be there, but in ſome of my private Papers I had written it, I think, in conſequence of ſeeing it in ſome old Pedigree, either in the Herald's Office, in the *Aſhmolean* Muſeum, or in the *Britiſh* Muſeum.

Whether you have made any Search for the Will of *Anthony* or *Katherine* his Wife, or for the Adminiſtration to either of them?

I have; but never could find any.

Where have you made that Search?

At *Canterbury*, *Glouceſter*, *Hereford*, and *Sarum*.

Have you made any Enquiry for the Marriage Settlement of *Robert*, the ſuppoſed Son of *Anthony*?

Amongſt my Brother's Papers, I have.

Have you found no ſuch Settlement?

No.

Have you ſearched for the Will of *Robert*, or for the Adminiſtration to him?

I have; but never could find any.

Or of Lady *Aſtley*?

I have; but never could find any.

Or of *Edward*, the ſuppoſed Son of *Robert* and his Wife?

I have; but never could find any.

Pleaſe to produce the Deeds you had from Mr. *Tappenden* at the ſame Time as that which has been already produced by him.

The Witneſs produced a Paper; and ſaid,

This Deed bears Date 20th *December* 1635, and contains this Deſcription: "*Edward Bridges*, of the Town of *Feverſham*, in the County of *Kent*, Yeoman, and his Wife *Katherine*." And it recites, that *Edward*, in the Right of *Katherine*, is ſeiſed of certain Premiſes, and covenants to levy a Fine of theſe Premiſes.

The Witneſs then produced another Deed; and ſaid, This

This Deed is dated 7th *January* 1635, and contains the ſame Deſcription of *Edward Bridges*, *viz.* of the Town of *Feverſham*, in the County of *Kent*, Yeoman.

Mr. Solicitor General obſerved, that in the Signature to this Deed, *Edward* ſigns his Name *Ed. Bridge*, and his Wife ſigns *Bridges*.

The Witneſs then produced another Deed, and ſaid,

This Deed bears Date 16th *February* 1635, and contains the ſame Deſcription of *Ed. Bridges*, *viz.* of the Town of *Feverſham*, in the County of *Kent*, Yeoman; and is ſigned *Ed. Bridges*.

Did you give Inſtructions for the Petition to His Majeſty?

I did.

In that Petition *Edward*, the Son of *Robert*, is ſtated to have died in 1665, and in the Appendix to the printed Caſe, delivered by the Claimant, to have died in 1646?

That aroſe from this Miſtake: I had never ſeen the *Feverſham* Regiſter; and when the *Feverſham* Regiſter was produced, it was palpable, that the Perſon there mentioned to be buried was not *Bridges* but *Burges*: We therefore concluded we were wrong in that Suppoſition, and we looked elſewhere. I was convinced he muſt have died many Years before; and therefore we looked wherever we thought it probable; we looked to the Pariſh to which his Son removed; and in the next Pariſh to that; and in that next Pariſh we did find the true Deſcription.

What led you to ſearch in the Pariſh of *St. George Canterbury* for it?

I ſearched firſt in *St. Andrew's*, where his Son lived, and there we could not find it; I then ſearched in the next adjoining Pariſh, becauſe the Pariſhes continue the ſame Street, and there I did not find it, but my Brother *John* found it.

(Q. *By a Lord.*) You have employed yourſelf in theſe Reſearches from the Beginning?

I have.

Did it not occur to you to ſearch all the Family Papers with the utmoſt Care from the Beginning?

Yes; I have, as far as lay in my Power; and I have underſtood from my Brother, that I have ſeen all the Papers he has: He keeps them locked up in a Room at *Wootton*.

Did you not know of his keeping his Papers there locked up?

Yes; but he always told us we had ſeen the Whole, till we preſſed him after the laſt Hearing, and told him it was of very great Conſequence: In conſequence of that, he propoſed to

make another Search, and appointed a Day for me to come over to *Wootton* to look over any additional Papers he might find; and it was in conſequence of that that he brought theſe, with a great many other Papers, out of that Room which was locked up.

What Proportion did the Papers he then produced bear to thoſe he had brought before?

Amongſt the Papers that were then brought down, he threw haſtily into a Baſket thoſe that had any the remoteſt Relation to the Subject.

Did it not occur to you before that Time, the Importance of looking over all the Papers in the Family?

Yes, we had always entreated him to ſhew them; and I thought we had ſeen the Whole.

What had you ſeen before this Time?

My Father had a great Variety of Papers, as Executor to a Variety of People, and I believe all the Papers of every Kind were all kept confuſedly together, therefore it was difficult for my Brother to determine what we had ſeen, and what not.

Was your Brother at all cautious of letting you ſee his Papers?

No, but I believe he had thrown thoſe Papers into great Confuſion in the Room from whence they were removed, and, in conſequence, did not like any Body to go into that Room; I know no other Reaſon.

Your Brother had no Objection to any Body ſearching but yourſelf?

No, not that I know of.

Was it not of Importance that you yourſelf ſhould have gone into the Room?

My Brother aſſured me he had brought down every Thing.

Why did he aſſure you of that?

Often before I have aſked my Brother many Queſtions, and he ſaid he believed I had ſeen them all; but, in conſequence of the laſt Requeſt, he brought out the other Papers.

Had it occurred to you to be of Importance to look through them before?

Yes, but my Brother had the Key.

Was that the Reaſon why you did not look before, why did you not apply to him for the Key?

He did not wiſh us to go into the Room; and gave us his Word that he had brought down every Paper we had not ſeen before. We have, at various Times, ſeen every Paper.

Then

Then you say it never was in Contemplation to make a Search till after the last Hearing?

Yes.

Then why did you not do it?

I did every Thing in my Power to get all the Papers, and to make a general Search.

(Q. *By Counsel*) Whether your Father was not in the Custom of keeping all his Papers and not destroying any?

Yes; very particularly; and had Papers belonging to a great Variety of People, which were in great Confusion after my Father's Death.

Was it or not necessary to have a Room for those Papers?

Yes; that Room was very full of them.

State who were the Two elder Branches of the Family?

The eldest I look upon to have been extinct in 1670; and the Second in the late Duke of *Chandos*.

Have you ever met with a Pedigree that states Dr. *Bridges* to have had a former Wife before *Katherine Sharp*?

Never.

How many Families of the Name of *Bridges* do you know of in *Kent*?

Two more, I recollect: One is Sir *Brooke Bridges*, and the other a Family of Farmers in the *Isle of Thanet*.

None inferior?

I remember an old Schoolmaster at *Canterbury*; I do not recollect any other.

You said it occurred to you, from the Beginning, to be important to make a general Search?

Yes; and I am convinced in my own Mind we have seen every Thing. I have not the least Doubt that I have seen every Thing now.

Had you any Doubt that your Brother had shewn you every Thing before?

Yes.

Is it known of what Profession Mr. *Best* was?

Not at all; because we did not know he was married.

Was he ever talked of in the Family?

I should think he was the Son of a Family of that Name—a younger Son; and that he lived upon what little Estate he had, in the Stile of a Gentleman, who farmed his own Estate.

Has any Enquiry been made after the *Hamlynes*?

I have looked into the Indexes of Wills, but could not find any Thing about them. I took particular Notice of what I never obſerved before; Two or Three old Law Books, in One of which was written *Richard Beſt*, and, in conſequence of that, I looked into the Pedigree of the *Beſts*, in the Viſitation of *Kent* in 1619, and mentioned in the Hiſtory of *Kent*; and I found the Name of *Beſt* of a Perſon who was in ſome Office in the Law at that Time.

What Kind of Papers were the others that came down in the Baſket?

Deeds and ſmall Receipts—every Species of Papers.

Any Thing elſe that at all affected this Queſtion?

Not One. In that Box, when we came to look into it, there were all Sorts of Papers, not belonging to the *Marketmans*. The ſame Papers are in the Box now.

The Lords inſpected the ſeveral Papers in the Box, and amongſt others, the Lords found a Paper, directed as follows:

"To my Cozen,
Mrs. *Anne Beſt*,
To bee left att
Mr. *John* ———
In *Faverſham*,
Kent."

The Contents of the ſaid Paper not being legible to the naked Eye, the Counſel for the Claimant were directed to have the ſame examined with Glaſſes, againſt the next Sitting of the Committee.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Propoſed to adjourn the Committee to *Tueſday* Fortnight.

Accordingly adjourned to *Tueſday* Fortnight.

Has any Enquiry been made after the Heirs?

I have looked into the Indexes of Wills, but could not find any Thing about them. I took particular Notice of what I never observed before; Two or Three old Law Books, in One of which was written Richard Bell, and, in consequence of that, I looked into the Pedigree of the Bells, in the Visitation of Kent, in 1619, and mentioned in the History of Kent; and I found the Name of Bell of a Perfon who was in fome Office in the Law at that Time.

What Kind of Papers were the others that came down in the Basket?

Deeds and fmall Receipts—every Species of Papers.

Any Thing elfe that at all affected this Queftion?

Not One. In that Box, when we came to look into it, there were allSorts of Papers, not belonging to the Markemans. The fame Papers are in the Box now.

The Lords infpected the feveral Papers in the Box, and amongft others, the Lords found a Paper, directed as follows:

"To my Cozen,
Mrs. Anne Bell,
To bee left att
Mr. John ——
In Feversham,
Kent."

The Contents of the faid Paper not being legible to the naked Eye, the Counfel for the Claimant were directed to have the fame examined with Glaffes, againft the next Sitting of the Committee.

The Witnefs was directed to withdraw.

The Counfel were directed to withdraw.

Propofed to adjourn the Committee to Tuefday Fortnight.

Accordingly adjourned to Tuefday Fortnight.

Die Martis, 21° *Aprilis* 1795.

The Lord *Walſingham* in the Chair.

THE Order of Reference was read. *Chandos Peerage.*

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.

The Counſel were called in.

Then Mr. CHARLES ABBOT was called in; and having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

Where did you get the Paper you now have in your Hand?

The Witneſs produced a Box, and ſaid,

It was found by One of their Lordſhips in this Box, the laſt Time the Committee met.

Are you certain that is the ſame Paper?

I am quite certain it is the ſame Paper.

Have you enabled yourſelf by any, and what Means, to read the Letter, ſo that you can ſtate the exact Contents of it?

I think I can ſay, that there is not altogether One Word with which I am not at preſent acquainted. After we retired from the Bar upon that Occaſion, I took this Letter away, with Mr. *Harvey*, One of the Counſel; we met at his Chambers that Evening for the Purpoſe of inſpecting the Letter, and of endeavouring to read its Contents. We employed not leſs than Four Hours in that Attempt. I believe we had then made it all out but Two or Three Words, which I made out the next Morning. The Ink is extremely faded, and it was only by a very conſtant Attention to any particular Word, by keeping the Eye on it for a great Length of Time, that I was able to aſſure myſelf I was not miſtaken in a Word. I have not found any Aſſiſtance from Glaſſes, or from any particular Strength of Light.

The Witneſs was directed to read the Letter.

The Witneſs ſaid,

It is addreſſed thus:

" To my Cozen,
Mrs. *Anne Beſt*
To be left att
Mr. *John* (The next Word I believe to be *Barnes*)
In *Feverſham*, theſe."

" Cozen *Beſt*

" I am verrie ſorrie to bee the bearer off bad newſe to you but my Cozen Gibbons will beare mee witneſſe y^t I have not ſpared my endeavours aboute ye affaire you truſted me w^th (The Witneſs ſaid the Word " with" is a Contraction, and ſo are many other Words.) Cozen Gibbons has bine along w^t with mee more than once to ye Palace but my Ladye ſince ſhee knowes our buſineſſe reffuſes to ſee mee Aboute five Weekes paſt wch is ye laſt time I was ſuffered to talke wth her upon the ſubject ſhee ſpoke in high wrathe of y^r imprudence & ungrateful behavour and ſayde moreover y^t it was all a wicked planne betweene you & y^r Brother to deceive her whoe had alwayſe bin as a Mother to you att a time y^r poore father had ſcarce wheere to lay his head Shee ſayde you would have ſhewne more reſpecte to ye memorie off S^ir John whoe was y^r beſte ffriende by following his advice then by chriſteninge ye childe by his name wch ſhee calls a paltrye tricke to winne her ffavour Soe it is a hartie grieffe to mee y^t i ſee noe hopes y^t my Ladye will be reconciled to you or y^r huſbande my deare kinſman whoſe happineſſe as well as y^rs I doe moſte hartily praye for.

I remaine Deare Cozen
" June 7, 1641. Y^r ſincere kinſman
John Knatchbull."

Have you looked through the other Papers contained in the Box at the Time that that was taken out of the Box by One of their Lordſhips the laſt Time the Committee met?

I have.

Have you found any Papers material to the Queſtion now before their Lordſhips?

None at all.

Have you had Occaſion to make any Searches among the Papers of the Claimant, at his Houſe or elſewhere?

Yes; at *Wootton* in *Kent*.

Do you believe it to have been ſo general that if there had been any Paper material to lay before their Lordſhips you muſt have ſeen it?

I conceive that I have. I will ſtate the Manner in which the Search was made:—I went down to *Wootton*, for the Purpoſe of making that Search, in Company with the Claimant, Mr. *Bridges*; Mr. *Harvey* joined us upon the Road, and went to *Wootton* with us. We there looked over a very great Number of Deeds and Papers of different Kinds, thrown promiſcuouſly together. We afterwards went into the Room at *Wootton* which was ſpoken of before. I looked into the Drawers and different Places there, and ſearched it in a Manner, which to us, at that Time, was ſatisfactory. I ſummarily inſpected the Purport of every Deed and Paper, ſo as to ſee, at leaſt, the Parties to it before the preſent Century, and I did not find any Deed or Paper which ſhewed any Connection between the Claimant's Family and any other of his Name in that County, except the Deeds relating to the Eſtate of *Katherine Sharp*.

Was you preſent when the Receipt produced was found?
I was not, on that Occaſion.

What other Papers are thoſe you now have in your Hand?

Then the Witneſs produced a Paper, and ſaid,

This is One of the Deeds found in the Courſe of the Search.

Then the following Extract was read from the ſame:

"Indenture, *April* 7, 1659, between *John Bridges* of *Canterbury* Grocer, of the One Part, & *Samuel Bright* of the ſame City Grocer, of the other Part, witneſſeth, That for the cutting off, diſcontinuing, &c. all & every Eſtate Tail, & contingent Remainder & Remainders of the Eſtates after mentioned, & for the more perfect ſettling them on the ſaid *John Bridges*, & his Heirs, it is agreed between them, that the ſaid *John* ſhall ſuffer the ſd *Samuel* to purſue, &c. a Writ of *Entrie ſur diſſeiſin in Le Poſt*, whereby the ſd *Saml* ſhall demand agst *John* all theſe 2 Meſs: or ten: &c. called *Sandwitches*, contg 2 Acres in *Lynſted*, & all thoſe Three Parcels of Land containing 15 Acres, &c. called *Herſt* in *Luddenham*, *Davington*, *Maſton*, & *Owen*, heretofore the Lands of *John Sharpe*, late of *Feverſham*, deceaſed, Grandfather of the ſaid *John Bridges*, & afterwards of *Katherine*, Daughter of the ſd *John Sharpe* & Mother of the ſaid *John Bridges*, to the only Uſe of the ſaid *John Bridges*, & his Heirs & Aſſigns for ever.

Signed by *John Bridges* &
Saml Bright, in the Preſence of
Thomas Ockman,
John Crane."

Then the Witneſs produced another Paper, which he ſaid was a Counterpart of an Indenture, dated *October* 8th 1684, made between *John Bridges* of the City of *Canterbury* Grocer, and *Mary* his Wife, and *Nicholas Franklyn* of the Borough of *Staplegate* within the Walls of the ſaid City, in the County of *Kent*, Tanner, and *Margaret* his Wife, (which ſaid *Mary* and *Margaret* are Two of the Daughters of *Thomas Young* late of the Pariſh of *Holy Croſs Weſtgate*, near and without the Walls of the ſaid City of *Canterbury* in the ſaid County of *Kent*, Grocer, deceaſed), of the one Part, and *Squier Beverton* the younger of the City of *Canterbury* aforeſaid, Gent. of the other Part, which purported to be a Releaſe to *Squier Beverton*, and his Heirs, of a Meſſuage in the Pariſh of *Holy Croſs Weſtgate*, deviſed to *Mary* and *Margaret*, and their Heirs, by the Will of their Father, in Conſideration of 30 *l.*, and executed by *Squier Beverton*.

The ſame was read.

Croſs-examined.

Did you find amongſt the Deeds any Settlement upon the Marriage of *Edward Bridges* and *Katherine Sharpe*?

I do not recollect that I did. I may certainly ſay not; for I ſhould have brought it away if I had found ſuch a One.

Did you find any Settlement upon the Marriage of *John Bridges* with *Ockman* the Firſt Wife, or *Young* the Second Wife?

No.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. WILLIAM CULLEN was called in; and having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

What are you?

Clerk of the Prerogative Office at *Canterbury*.

What Paper have you in your Hand?

The Will of *John Bridges* of the City of *Canterbury*, Grocer.

The ſame was read, and is as follows:

" Extracted from the Regiſtry of the Archdeacon's Court of *Canterbury*.

" This is the Laſt Will and Teſtament of me *John Sharpe* of *Faverſham*, in the Countie of *Kent*, Maltſter, made the xiiij^th^ Daye of *September*, in the Yere of oure Lord Xxiſte 1615, being ſick in Boddye, yet of good & ꝑfecte Remembrance, (thankes be unto God therefore). Firſt, I com̃end my Sowle in the Hands of

of the moſt bleſſed Trinitye, the Father, the Sonne, and Holie Spirite, Three ꝑſons but One God, belevinge ſtedfaſtlie to be ſaved from all my Synns thoroughe the free Mcye of God, by the onlie Merritts, Deathe, and Sufferinges of Jeſus Xxiſte my onlie Savioure. My Boddie I cõmitte to the Earth, in ſure Hope of my joyfull Reſurrection at the laſt Daye. Item, I give and bequeathe to *Marie* my lovinge Wife all my Howſhould Stuf, and Impelments of Howſhould. Item, I will that all the Reſidew of my Goods, Cattells, and Debtts, (my owne Debtts wch I owe) firſt ſatisfied and payd, ſhall be equallie divided in true Value, and the One Haulf thereof I give unto my Wife, and the other Haulf I give unto my Daughter at her Age of xviij Yeres; in the meane Seaſon, the ſame to remayne in my Wife's Hands. Item, I give to the Poore of the Towne of *Faverſham* 40s; and I give to the Poore of *Wye* 40s; and I make my Wife my Executrice. Item, I deviſe and give unto my Wife all my Howſe in *Faverſham*, and all my Howſes, Lands, and Tenements, in yt Countie of *Kent*, until my Daughter comethe to the Age of xviij Yeres, (ſhe keepinge the Reparacons thereof); and after my Daughter comethe to the Age of xviij Yeres, then I give unto my Wife xxl Anuitye or Rent Charge Yearlie, owte of all my ſayd Howſes, Lands, and Tenements, duringe her naturall Lefe, to be payd at the Foure uſuall Quarters of the Yere, *viz.* of St Michaell the Archangell, the Birthe of oure Lord Xxiſte, the Annunacio of the Bleſſed Virgin Marie, and the Nativitie of St John the Baptiſte, by equall Portions, wth Power to diſtrayne for not Payment thereof; the Firſt Payment to begyne at that Feaſt of the Feaſts aforeſayde happenge next after my ſayd Daughter ſhall come to her Age of xviij. Item, I give unto my Daughter, at her Age of xviij, all and ſingular my ſayd Howſes, Lands, and Tenements, and to the Heyres of her Boddye lawfullie begotten; and for Want of ſuch Iſſue, the ſame to remayne unto the Children of my Two Siſters *Margaret* and *Jertruds*, and to there Heyres for ever, equallie to be divided. And I give unto my Siſter *Margaret* 40s yerelie owte of all my ſayd Howſes, Lands, and Tenements, for Seven Yeres next after my Deathe, to be payd Quarterlie, at the Foure moſt uſuall Feaſts, wth Power to diſtrayne for not Payment thereof. This Will was acknowledged and ſubſcribed in the ꝑſence of *Iſraell Lee*, *John Hilton*, *Elizabeth Wortiler*, and *Urſula Ottertan*. [The Mark of *Iſrael Lee*.]

" Proved the Fifth Day of *October* 1615, by the Oath of *Marie Sharp* Widow, the Relict and ſole Executrix named in the ſaid Will, *&c.*

" Exd *Tho: Backhouſe*, Regiſter."

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Robert Harriſon* produced a Tranſcript from the Office of the Commons under the Name of *Coventry*, containing, amongſt other Things, the Will of Sir *John Aſtley*, dated 3d *January* 1639.

The ſame was read, and is as follows:

" Extracted from the Regiſtry of the Prerogative Court of *Canterbury*.

" In the Name of God, Amen. This Third Day of *January* Anno D'ni One thouſand ſix hundred thirty and nine, and in the Year of the Reign of Our Sovereign Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.* the Fifteenth; I Sir *John Aſtley* of *Maidſtone*, in the County of *Kent*, Knight, Maſter of His Majeſty's Office of the Revells, and One of the Gentlemen of His Majeſty's Moſt Honourable Privy Chamber, being, at this Preſent, of ſound and perfect Memory and Underſtanding (praiſed be my God therefore), knowing the Uncertainty and Inſtability of this bodily Life, which is a Tabernacle of Clay whoſe Foundation is in the Duſt, do hereby make and declare this my laſt Will and Teſtament, in Manner and Form following, diſannulling and annihilating all former and other Wills whatſoever by me at any Time or Times heretofore made or publiſhed. Firſt and chiefly, I commend my Soul to the Pleaſure of my good God, my Father and Maker; to Jeſus Chriſt, my Saviour and Redeemer; and to the Holy Ghoſt, my Sanctifier and Comforter; hoping, with Aſſurance, by that glorious Work of the Holy Trinity in Man's Redemption, which was wrought by my Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, his bitter Death and Paſſion, to obtain a full and free Remiſſion of all my Sins; and that, at my God's bleſſed and appointed Time, I ſhall be received to reign with the Bleſſed in the Kingdom of Heaven. I will that my Body ſhall be buried in ſuch convenient Manner as to my Executor herein-after named ſhall be thought fit; and after my Body buried, and Funeral diſcharged, my Will and Meaning is, that all ſuch Debts whatſoever as I ſhall owe at the Time of my Deceaſe to any Perſon or Perſons whatſoever, ſhall be well and truly ſatisfied and paid, within as ſhort Time as may be with Conveniency. I bequeath to One hundred poor Perſons, which ſhall be then Inhabitants in the Town and Pariſh of *Maidſtone* aforeſaid, and in the ſeveral Pariſhes of *Boxley*, *Maidſtone*, *Ailesford*, and *Allington*, in the ſaid County of *Kent*, the Sum of Thirty-three Pounds Six Shillings and Eight-pence, to be diſtributed by my Executor hereafter named; that is to ſay, To every ſuch poor Perſon whom he ſhall nominate and appoint, of the Town and Pariſhes aforeſaid,

ſaid, the Sum of Six Shillings and Eight-pence of lawful Money of *England*; which Diſtribution, my Will is, be within Six Weeks next after the Day of my Funeral. Item, I give to *Francis Bourne* my Servant, if he ſhall be dwelling with me at the Time of my Deceaſe, the Sum of Twenty Pounds; and to *Anne Deaving*, if ſhe ſhall then alſo be dwelling with me, the Sum of Ten Pounds; and every other of my Men Servants that ſhall be dwelling with me at the Time of my Deceaſe, the Sum of Five Pounds; and to every other of my Maid Servants, that at the Time of my Death ſhall be dwelling with me, the Sum of Three Pounds of like Money; all which ſeveral Legacys to be paid to every One of my ſaid Servants over and above their Wages which ſhall be then due unto them. Item, My Will and Meaning is, that if my Couſin *Alice Cage*, the Daughter of my Siſter *Eleanor Knachbull*, ſhall over-live her now Huſband, and ſhall, in the Time of her Widowhood, demand the ſame, that then my Executor ſhall pay to her the ſaid *Alice*, the Sum of One hundred Pounds of lawful Money of *England*, and not before, or otherwiſe. Item, I give to my loving Couſin *Edward Lenton* of *Gray's Inn* Eſquire, the Sum of Fifty Pounds of like lawful Money, to be paid to him within Seven Months next after my Death, if he ſhall be then living, otherwiſe this my Legacy and Gift to be void. Item, I give to my Couſin *John Knachbull*, my Godſon, eldeſt Son to my Couſin *Norton Knachbull* Eſquire, the Sum of One hundred Pounds of lawful Money of *England*, to be paid unto him when he ſhall attain to the Age of One and twenty Years, if he ſhall be then living, and not otherwiſe. Item, I give to my Couſin *Ruth Rogers* Daughter of *Anthony Nevill* of *Matterſey*, in the County of *Nottingham*, Eſquire, deceaſed, the Sum of One hundred Pounds of like lawful Money of *England*, to be paid unto her within Seven Months next after my Death, if ſhe ſhall be then a Widow and unmarried; and if ſhe ſhall then happen to be married, then my Will is, that the ſaid Hundred Pounds be paid unto her within One and twenty Days next after ſhe, in the Time of her Widowhood, ſhall demand the ſame, and not before or otherwiſe. Item, I give to the Children of my Couſin *Curteys* which he had by my late Niece *Bridget*, who was the Daughter of my Siſter *Eleanor*, to each of the ſaid Children that ſhall be living at the Time their Legacies ſhall be payable, according to the Time herein-after by this my Will limited, the full Sum of Twenty Marks a-piece of lawful Money of *England*. Item, I bequeath to the Children of my Couſin *Tucke* which he had by my late Niece *Margaret*, who was the Daughter of my Siſter *Eleanor*, to each of them the ſaid Children that ſhall be living at the Time theſe Legacies ſhall be payable,

according to the Time herein-after by this my Laſt Will and Teſtament limited and appointed, the full Sum of Ten Pounds a-piece, of like lawful Money. Item, I give to the Children of my Couſin *Allen* which he had by my late Niece *Suſanna*, who was the Daughter of my Siſter *Eleanor*, to each of the ſaid Children that ſhall be living at the Time their Legacys ſhall be payable, according to the Time herein-after in and by this my Will limited, the full Sum of Ten Pounds a-piece; my Meaning is, that if my ſaid Couſin *Allen* have no Children by my ſaid late Niece *Suſan*, then this Legacy laſt mentioned to be void. Item, I give to my Niece *Diſney*, who was the Daughter of my late Siſter *Margaret Nevile*, the Sum of Forty Marks of lawful Money of *England*, to be paid to her in the Time of her Widowhood, and at the Time herein-after by this my Will limited, and not before or otherwiſe. Item, I give to my Couſin *Nevile Hall*, who is the Son of the late Dame *Margaret Hall*, who was the Daughter of my ſaid late Siſter *Margaret*, the full Sum of Two hundred Pounds of lawful Money of *England*, upon this Condition following, *videlicet*, that he my ſaid Couſin *Nevile* do, upon the Receipt thereof, immediately pay the ſame to my Couſin *Debora Hall* his Siſter, for or towards the Portion of her the ſaid *Debora*, deviſed or given to her by her late Father Sir *William Hall* Knight, deceaſed, except my ſaid Couſin *Nevile* have, in my Life-time, paid to the ſaid *Debora* all her ſaid Portion; which Portion if it be otherwiſe truly and really paid to her the ſaid *Debora*, then I give the ſaid Two hundred Pounds to be paid unto him the ſaid *Nevile*, at ſuch Time when the Legacys, by this my Laſt Will and Teſtament, are herein-after limited to be paid. Item, I give to my ſaid Couſin *Debora* the Sum of Forty Marks of like lawful Money, to be paid to her at the Time herein-after limited; and to the other Children of the ſaid Dame *Margaret Hall*, not herein named, that ſhall be living when their Legacys by this my laſt Will and Teſtament ſhall be payable, I do give and deviſe the Sum of Forty Marks of like lawful Money, to be equally divided between them Part and Part alike. Item, I give to my well-beloved Couſin, Sir *Jacob Aſtley* Knight, the full Sum of Five hundred Marks of like lawful Money, to be paid unto him the ſaid Sir *Jacob*, at the Time herein-after limited, if he ſhall be then living; and if it ſhall happen the ſaid Sir *Jacob* to be then dead, then I give the ſaid Five hundred Marks to my Couſin *Elizabeth Aſtley* Daughter of the ſaid Sir *Jacob*, if ſhe the ſaid *Elizabeth* ſhall be then living, and of the Age of Twenty and one Years; and if it ſhall happen the ſaid *Elizabeth* to dye before the Time limited for the Payment of the ſaid Five hundred Marks, then I bequeath the ſame to the eldeſt

Child,

Child, Male or Female, of the ſaid Sir *Jacob* that ſhall be then living, at the Time limited for the Payment thereof as aforeſaid, to be paid to her or him at the full Age of Twenty and one Years; or if he or ſhe ſhall be of ſuch full Age, then at the Time hereby limited. Item, I give to my Couſin *Ann Bridges* or *Agnes Bridges*, by what Name ſoever ſhe be called, who is Niece to my Wife Dame *Katherine*, the full Sum of One thouſand Pounds of lawful Money of *England*, to be paid to her at the Time herein-after limited; and if the ſaid *Agnes Bridges* ſhall die before the by me limited for the Payment of the ſaid Thouſand Pounds, then I give Five hundred Pounds thereof to the ſaid Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, if he ſhall be then living, and if the ſaid Sir *Jacob* ſhall not be then living, then I give the ſaid Five hundred Pounds to the eldeſt Child, Male or Female, of the ſaid Sir *Jacob* that ſhall be then living at the Time herein-after limited, to be paid to her or him at the full Age of Twenty and one Years; or if he or ſhe ſhall be of ſuch full Age, then at the Time hereby limited for the Payment thereof; and the other Five hundred Pounds, Reſidue of the ſaid Thouſand Pounds, (if the ſaid *Anne Bridges* ſhall ſo dye as aforeſaid), I give to my Two Couſins *Thomas Aſtley*, One of the Sons of my late Uncle *Thomas Aſtley* Eſquire, deceaſed, and *Drew Aſtley*, to be equally divided between them Part and Part alike, if they ſhall be then living; if either of them ſhall be then dead, then I give the ſame to the Survivor of them the ſaid *Thomas* and *Drewe*; if they ſhall both of them dye, then I give the ſame to the eldeſt Child, Male or Female, of the ſaid *Drew Aſtley* that ſhall be then living, to be paid to her or him at the full Age of Twenty and one Years; or if he or ſhe ſhall then be of ſuch full Age, then at the Time hereby limited. Item, I give to my ſaid Couſin *Thomas Aſtley*, One of the Sons of my ſaid late Uncle *Thomas Aſtley* Eſq. the Sum of One hundred Pounds of like Money, to be paid to him at the Time herein-after limited; and if the ſaid *Thomas Aſtley* ſhall dye before the Time limited for the Payment of the ſaid Hundred Pounds, then I give the ſame to *Thomas Aſtley*, the eldeſt Son of my Couſin *Andrew Aſtley* Eſq. if he ſhall be then living, to be paid to him at the Time herein-after limited, if he ſhall be then of the Age of Twenty and one Years; and if he ſhall not be then living, and of the Age of Twenty and one Years as aforeſaid, then I give the ſaid Hundred Pounds to the eldeſt Child, Male or Female, of the ſaid *Thomas*, Son of the ſaid *Andrew*, that ſhall be then living at the Time herein-after limited, to be paid to her or him at the full Age of Twenty and one Years, or if he or ſhe ſhall be of ſuch full Age, then at the Time herein-after limited for

the Payment thereof. Item, I give to my before named Couſin *Drew Aſtley*, One of the Sons of my late Uncle *Richard Aſtley* Eſq. the full Sum of Forty Marks of like Money. Item, I give to my beloved Couſin *Norton Knachbull* Eſquire, the Son of my late Siſter *Eleanor*, the Sum of Two hundred Marks of lawful Money of *England*. Item, I give to my Couſin *Thomas Knachbull*, Brother of the ſaid *Norton*, the Sum of One hundred Pounds of like lawful Money. Item, I give to my Couſin *Edward Aſtley*, the Son of my Couſin *Drew Aſtley*, the Sum of Forty Marks of like Money; and to my Godſon *John Clifford*, the Son of *George Clifford* of *London*, Gent. the Sum of Twenty Pounds of like Money. And becauſe I would have Dame *Katharine* my Wife to pay to *Bridgett Cherſon* alias *Wainright*, during her Life, the Sum of Four Pounds quarterly, the Firſt Payment thereof to begin and be at that Feaſt of the Four uſual Feaſts of Saint Michael the Archangel, Chriſtmas Day, the Lady Day, and Midſummer Day, that ſhall firſt happen after my Deceaſe; I have therefore herein enlarged my Legacys towards her my ſaid Wife; and my Will and Deſire is, and I do hereby deviſe, ſhe my ſaid Wife, or her Aſſigns, pay, or cauſe to be paid, to the ſaid *Bridget*, or her Aſſigns, quarterly as aforeſaid, the Sum of Four Pounds during the Life of the ſaid *Bridget*; and I deſire, as much as in my ſaid Wife may be, that ſuch Care may be taken in the Payment thereof, as that the ſaid *Bridget* herſelf may receive the ſame, that ſhe may have the whole Benefit thereof to herſelf, without her Huſband or any other intermeddling with the ſame. Item, I give to *John Dercvax*, who is the Son of *Jone Derovax*, who was ſometime my Servant, the full Sum of Ten Pounds of lawful Money of *England*, to be diſpoſed of in the moſt beneficial Way it may be for the butting or binding of him to ſome honeſt Trade or Myſtery; and if in my Life-time I ſhall have diſpoſed of him, or place him with any Perſon whatſoever, that then this Legacy of Ten Pounds to be void. And though I conceive it will not be much material, yet for an Eſtabliſhment of a certain Peace and Amity (as much as in me is) amongſt thoſe of my Kindred, my Will and Deſire is, that in the Firſt Place that my Couſin *John Nevill* of *Matterſey*, in the County of *Nottingham*, Eſq. before Two credible Witneſſes at the leaſt, ſhall ſign, ſeal, and as his Act and Deed deliver, either to the ſaid Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, or his Heirs, or to my Executor, to the Uſe of the ſaid Sir *Jacob* or his Heirs, One ſuch general Releaſe to be made to the ſaid Sir *Jacob* or his Heirs, at his or their Charges, as my ſaid Executor ſhall reaſonably deſire, of all and all Manner of Occaſions, as well Real as Perſonal, and of all Right, Titles, Intereſt, and Demands whatſoever

whatſoever out of, in, and to any of thoſe which were or are my Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments whatſoever, within the Realm of *England*, in due Form of Law, to be contrived as my ſaid Executor ſhall think my Mind to be; and One other the like Releaſe to be made, *mutatis mutandis*, by my ſaid Couſin *John Nevill* to my ſaid Couſin *Norton Knachbull*, and at his Charges to be ſigned, ſealed, and delivered to the ſaid *Norton* or his Heirs, as my Executor ſhall reaſonably deſire the ſame. And my Will, Meaning, and Deſire alſo is, that my Couſin *Norton Knachbull* in the Second Place, in due Form of Law, ſhall at his Charges make, ſign, ſeal, and deliver, to the ſaid Sir *Jacob* or his Heirs ſuch general Releaſe aforeſaid, to be contrived by my Executor as aforeſaid, the Apportionment of the Fee-farm Rent or Yearly Payment payable into His Majeſty's Exchequer out of my Lands to them conveyed, and the Covenants and Agreements concerning the ſaid Fee-farm or Yearly Payment only excepted; after which ſaid Releaſe ſo ſigned and ſealed by the ſaid *Norton* as aforeſaid, my Will and Deſire is, in the Third Place, and not before, the ſaid Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, in like due Form of Law, ſhall at his Charges make, ſign, ſeal, and deliver as aforeſaid, to the ſaid *Norton* or his Heirs, or to my Executor, to the Uſe of the ſaid *Norton* or his Heirs, the like Releaſe as aforeſaid, to be contrived by my ſaid Executor as aforeſaid, the Apportionment of the Fee-farm Rent or Yearly Payment aforeſaid, and the Covenants and Agreements concerning the ſame only excepted. And if any of my ſaid Couſins *John Nevile*, *Norton Knachbull*, and Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, ſhall refuſe to make and give ſuch Releaſes reſpectively, and in Time as aforeſaid, I do hereby declare, that it be taken as a Manifeſtation of the Want of his and their Love and Reſpect to me, and as a Neglect of me, and of the Performance of my Will and Deſire. Item, I give to my ſaid Couſin *John Nevile* the Sum of One thouſand Marks of lawful Money of *England*, to be paid unto him at the Time herein-after limited; and if the ſaid *John Nevile* ſhall die before the Time limited for the Payment of the ſaid Thouſand Marks, then I give the ſame to the eldeſt Son of the ſaid *John Nevile* that ſhall be then living, to be paid to him at the full Age of Twenty and one Years; and if ſuch eldeſt Son ſhall not live to attain to the Age of Twenty and one Years, then I give the ſame to the eldeſt Child, Male or Female, of the ſaid *John Nevile* that ſhall be then living, to be paid to her or him at the full Age of Twenty and one Years; and if none of the Children of the ſaid *John Nevile* ſhall live to attain to the Age of Twenty and one Years, then I give the ſaid Thouſand Markes to the ſaid Sir *Jacob Aſtley* if he ſhall be then living,

living, and if he ſhall not be then living, then to the eldeſt Child, Male or Female, of the ſaid Sir *Jacob Aſtley* that ſhall be then living after the Death of all the Children of the ſaid *John Nevile* ſo dying within the Age of Twenty and one Years as aforeſaid, to be paid to the ſaid Sir *Jacob*, or to ſuch eldeſt Child, Male or Female, of the ſaid Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, at his or her full Age of Twenty and one Years; or if he or ſhe ſhall then be of ſuch full Age, then to be paid as hereby is limited. And further, my Will and Meaning is, that all my Legacys hereinbefore bequeathed, to which there is no appointed Time, ſhall be payable in Manner and Form following; that is to ſay, After that my Executor ſhall have received of my Couſin *Norton Knachbull*, his Heirs, Executors, or Aſſigns, the Sum of Two thouſand Pounds, which he owes me upon the Statute which he hath acknowledged to me, then within One and twenty Days next after the Receipt of the ſaid Two thouſand Pounds, to pay in ſeveral Legacys according to the ſeveral Legacies aforeſaid, to ſuch of my Legatees reſpectively as my Executor ſhall think fit, and which ſhall demand the ſame, ſo much as the ſaid Two thouſand Pounds ſhall extend unto; and from and after that my Executor ſhall have received of Sir *James Oxenden* Knight, his Heirs, Executors, or Aſſigns, the Sum of Fifteen hundred Pounds which he oweth me upon another Statute, which he alſo hath acknowledged to me, then within One and twenty Days next after the Receipt of the ſaid Fifteen hundred Pounds, he to pay in ſeveral Legacys according to the ſeveral Legacys aforeſaid, to ſuch of my of my Legatees reſpectively, as my Executor ſhall think fit, and which ſhall demand the ſame, ſo much of the ſaid Fifteen hundred Pounds as ſhall be needful towards the Payment of ſuch Legacys as ſhall then be unpaid; and from and after my Executor ſhall have received of my Couſin Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, his Heirs, Executors, or Aſſigns, the Sum of One thouſand Pounds, which he oweth me upon another Statute, which he alſo hath acknowledged to me, then within One and twenty Days next after the Receipt of the ſaid One thouſand Pounds, he to pay in ſeveral Legacys according to the ſeveral Legacys aforeſaid to ſuch of my Legatees reſpectively as my Executor ſhall think fit, and which ſhall demand the ſame, ſo much of the ſaid One thouſand Pounds as ſhall be then needful towards the Payment of ſuch Legacys as ſhall be then unpaid: Provided always, and my Will further is, and I do hereby deviſe and appoint, that every Legatee in this my laſt Will and Teſtament named, whoſoever he or ſhe or they ſhall be, ſhall not receive his or their Legacys until he, ſhe, and they ſhall be of full Age; and that upon the Receipt of his, her, and their

Legacy

Legacy and Legacys, he, ſhe, and they, under his, her, and their Hands and Seals reſpectively, ſhall make and give, in Writing, to any Executor ſuch ſufficient Acquittance and Diſcharge in the Law as my Executor ſhall reaſonably deviſe or think fit: Provided always, that if any Legatee or Legatees, either Maid Servant or Man Servant, to whom I give Wages of Five Pounds or under by the Year, whoſoever he, ſhe, or they ſhall be, in this my laſt Will and Teſtament meant or named, ſhall, within Forty Days before my Death, or at any Time after my Death, embezzill, take away, conceal, convey away, or cauſe to be taken, concealed, or conveyed away, any of my Goods, Houſehold Stuff, or Chattels whatſoever, or ſhall know of any other Perſon or Perſons whatſoever that ſhall embezzill, take away, conceal, or convey away, any of my ſaid Goods, Chattels, or Houſehold Stuff, and not diſcover the ſame to my ſaid Executor when he ſhall require the ſame; then ſuch Legatee or Legatees, whatſoever he, ſhe, or they ſhall be, ſhall loſe the Benefit of this my laſt Will and Teſtament, and his, her, and their Legacy and Legacys reſpectively, and ſhall not have or take any Legacy or Advantage by this my laſt Will and Teſtament. Item, My Will and Meaning is, that my Executor, out of my Perſonal Eſtate, ſhall, within Eighteen Months next after my Deceaſe, cauſe to be ſet up and finiſhed in the Chancel of the Collegiate or uſual Church in *Maidſtone* aforeſaid, near the Monument of my late Father *John Aſtley* Eſquire, or in ſuch other convenient Place of the ſaid Chancel as the Lord Archbiſhop or Ordinary of that Place for the Time being ſhall agree unto, One fair Monument of my ſaid Father, my late Mother, and myſelf, with ſuch Coats of Arms, Ornaments, and Inſcriptions, as by ſome Heralds of Arms ſhall be approved of; in and about the Accompliſhment whereof, and in and about all Charges and Expences touching the ſame, my Deſire is, there be beſtowed and expended One hundred Pounds, or near the ſame, within Ten Pounds at the moſt. Item, my Will is, that my Service Book, and great Map of all my Lands, and all my original Writings and Patents, which do or ſhall touch or concern all or any of my ſaid Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments whatſoever, paſſed and conveyed in my Life-time to the ſaid Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, (other than the Counterparts or Writings ſealed by the ſaid Sir *Jacob*), either in the Life-time of the ſaid Dame *Katherine* my Wife, or after her Death, when and at ſuch Time and Times as my ſaid Executor ſhall think fit, and not before, ſhall be delivered to the ſaid Sir *Jacob* or his Heirs; and my Deſire is, that my ſaid Executor take care of thoſe Writings which concern my Wife's Jointure. Item, I give to my well-beloved Wife Dame *Katherine*,

vine all my Silver Plate, and all the Houſehold Stuff, of Bedſteads, Feather-beds, Bolſters, Blankets, Rugg Matts, Mattraſſes, Coats, Cupboards, Tables, Carpets, Couch-chairs, Chairs, Stools, and Hangings whatſoever, as are properly belonging to and ordinarily uſed in the ſeveral Rooms of my Houſe called *The Palace*, which I intend ſo to be without diſfurniſhing any other Rooms in the ſaid Houſe; that is to ſay, the Houſehold Stuff of the Sorts aforeſaid properly belonging to and ordinarily uſed in the Room now commonly uſed to dine and ſup in; in the little Red Chamber thereto adjoining; in the Room where my ſaid Wife now uſually lyeth; in the little Room or Cloſet thereto adjoining; in the great Dining-room; in the great Lodging Chamber thereto next adjoining, toward the North; in the little Chamber within the ſame; in the Chamber where myſelf doth now uſually lodge; in the Chamber next adjoining, where my Maid-ſervants do now uſually lye; and in the Chamber within the ſame, where my ſaid Couſin *Agnes Bridges* did heretofore uſually lye. And as concerning my Houſehold Stuff, whatſoever and whereſoever, which is commonly uſed in any of the Rooms aforeſaid, and in the Kitchen, Buttery, and Bakehouſe, and which is of Iron, Braſs, Pewter, and Linen, my Will is, that the ſame be divided into Four equal Parts, as well for the Quantity as the Quality thereof, as near (as for the Time being) may be, Three Parts whereof I give to my ſaid Wife, and the other Fourth Part thereof, Reſidue and remaining, I give to my Executor; and if it ſhall pleaſe the Lord that I ſhall depart this Life at ſuch Time as all my Farm Rents ſhall be unpaid, and conſequently may happen to my Executor, then, and not otherwiſe, I give to my ſaid Wife One hundred and fifty Pounds for her preſent Supply, to be paid her after my Executor ſhall have received the ſaid Rents of my Tenants, and not before. Item, I do hereby grant, demiſe, and deviſe, to my truſty, approved, and well-beloved Friend, *William Harriſon*, of *Upper Lache*, in the Pariſh of *Woodnesborough*, in the County of *Kent*, Gent. the ſeveral Rooms following, being Part of my Houſe called *The Palace*, in *Maidſtone*, that is to ſay, the Room which I uſe for my Cloſet, where all or the moſt Part of my Books and Writings now are, the inner Room within the ſame, and the Rooms and Places within the ſaid Cloſet and inner Room, the little Cloſet going up the Gallery, and the whole Gallery, and little Chamber at the End thereof, with all the Rooms to the ſaid Gallery belonging; the Chamber over the Cloſet aforeſaid, ſometimes called *The School Houſe*, and the inner Room thereto; the Chamber next the Buttery, where my Siſter *Eleanor Knachbull* uſually did lie, with all the inner Rooms to be gone into out of the ſame;

ſame; and the Hovel which is at the End of the Great Stable, for Horſe and Beaſts to ſtand, with free Liberty of Ingreſs, Egreſſe, Regreſſe, Stay, and Abiding, into, within, to, and from the ſame, and by, through, over, and upon all the Stairs, Steps, Courts, Yards, Backſides, Ways, Rooms, and Paſſages to them, convenient and uſual, at his and their Will and Pleaſures, from Time to Time, and at all Times, during this Demiſe, to have and to hold the ſaid Rooms, Cloſets, and Premiſes hereby granted, demiſed, and deviſed, with the Liberty of Ingreſſe, Egreſſe, Regreſſe, Stay, and Abiding, into, within, to, and from them, and every of them as aforeſaid, with their and every of their Appurtenances, to him the ſaid *William* and his Aſſigns, from and immediately after my Deceaſe, unto the full End and Term of One whole Year from thence next enſuing, fully to be compleat, finiſhed, and ended, without repairing the ſame, and without paying any Rent for the ſame; and ſuch Stable-room for the Horſes, Mares, and Geldings of the ſaid *William* and his Aſſigns, as my ſaid Wife for her Time, or the ſaid Sir *Jacob* for his Time, ſhall think fit; which I have done for the Benefit of my Executor, that he may have the more Eaſe in the Execution of my Will; and though I could have enlarged the ſame, yet I think fit to refer any Enlargement both to my Wife during her Life, and to my Couſin Sir *Jacob* and his Heirs, after her Death, as they in their ſeveral Love to my Executor ſhall pleaſe to enlarge themſelves. And I do hereby nominate, conſtitute, and appoint, the ſaid *William Harriſon* to be the ſole and only Executor of this my laſt Will and Teſtament; and to him the ſaid *William Harriſon* I do hereby give all and ſingular my Goods, Cattle, and Chattels whatſoever, not hereby bequeathed; and I do hereby nominate and require Sir * *Henry Tufton* Knight, and my forenamed Couſin *Edward Lenton*, to be the Overſeers of this my laſt Will and Teſtament. And I do hereby give to the ſaid Sir † *Humphry Tufton* my Book of *Ortelius* his Maps, and my Book of *Paſtures for the Wars*, ſent me out of the *Low Countries* by my Couſin Sir *Jacob Aſtley*, as a Token of my Love towards him, to be delivered to him within ſhort Time after the Appriſal of my Goods, if he ſhall be then living. And in as much as the ſaid *William Harriſon* hath been of Conſell with me, and of long Time privy to my Eſtate and Affairs, and in them all I have found him truſty, for all which I have given him his ordinary Fees, and Moneys he hath diſburſed for me, but have not as yet given him ſuch full Recompence for his Love, Reſpect, and Faithfulneſs towards me, as I have meant him, my Will and Meaning is, that what Advantage ſoever can or may redound to my ſaid Executor by this my laſt Will and Teſtament, that he ſhall and may have and take

* Sic in Orig.

† Sic in Orig.

the ſame for a further Recompence to him the ſaid *William Harriſon*. And I do hereby publiſh and declare that I do this knowingly and freely. And my Deſire is to my ſaid Couſin *Sir Jacob Aſtley*, that in what he can or may, that he favour, help, and aſſiſt my ſaid Executor. And my Will further is, that if any Legatee in this my laſt Will and Teſtament named or meant, whom my ſaid Executor ſhall not well and certainly know, that ſhall, by virtue of this my laſt Will and Teſtament demand any Legacy whatſoever of my ſaid Executor, that every ſuch Legatee, whatſoever he or ſhe ſhall be, ſhall firſt make very good and ſatisfactory Proof to my ſaid Executor of his and her being the true and undoubted Party to whom ſuch Legacy or Legacys, are or ought to be paid, before my ſaid Executor ſhall be compelled to pay ſuch Legacy or Legacys as aforeſaid. Provided always, that if in my Life-time I ſhall give or pay to any Legatee or Legatees before herein named, any Sum or Sums of Money whatſoever by this my laſt Will and Teſtament to her, him, or them intended as a Legacy or Legacys, that then all Legacy and Legacys hereby or herein before given, as to ſuch Perſon and Perſons to whom any Sum or Sums of Money ſhall be ſo given or paid as aforeſaid, ſhall be void; and ſuch Perſon and Perſons, Legatee and Legatees, whoſoever he, ſhe, or they ſhall be, ſhall have no Advantage or Benefit by this my laſt Will and Teſtament. In Witneſs whereof, to this my laſt Will and Teſtament, written in Twenty Sheets of Paper, to every Sheet whereof I have ſubſcribed my Name, and to the Twentieth Sheet, being the laſt Sheet hereof, I have written my Name and put to my Seal. Dated the Third Day of *January* Anno D̃ni One thouſand ſix hundred thirty and nine, and in the Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, *&c.* the Fifteenth, being the Day and Year in the Firſt Sheet of this my laſt Will and Teſtament firſt before written.

" *John Aſtley* (L.S.

" Sealed, and delivered, and publiſhed, and declared to be the laſt Will and Teſtament of the ſaid Sir *John Aſtley*, the Third Day of *January* 1639, in the Preſence of *Jo. Urrick*—*Jo. Fletcher*—*John Harriſon*—*John Ducke*.

" Probatum apud London coram vir̃o Carolo Tooker legum Doctore Surr. &c. decimo die menſis Februarii, Anno Dni juxta, &c. 1639. Jurãto William Harriſon Exris, &c. cui, &c. de bene, &c. jurat.

" *Geo. Goſtling*, } Deputy
James Townley, } Regiſters."
*Nath*l *Goſtling*, }

29 Coventry (64) Exd.

The

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Cullen* was called in again, and produced the original Will of *John Sharp*, dated *September* 18th, 1615.

The ſame was read, and is as follows:

" Extracted from the Regiſtry of the Archdeacon's Court of *Canterbury*.

" In the Name of God, Amen. I *John Bridges* of the City of *Canterbury*, Grocer, beinge in good Health, and of ſound and perfect Mind and Memory, God be praiſed, do make and ordaine this my laſt Will and Teſtament in Manner and Form followinge: Imprimis, I comend my Soule into the Hands of Almightie God, my mercifull Creator, hopeinge for Salvation onely by the Meritts of my Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt; my Body I comit to the Earth to be decently buried in the Church Yarde comonly called the *Chappell Church Yarde*, at the Diſcretion of my Executor hereafter named. Item, I will and appointe that my ſaid Executor hereafter named, ſhall give and beſtowe uppon ſuch of my Friends and Relacons as he ſhall thinke fitt, unto each of them a Gold Ringe, to weare in Rememberance of me, all which Rings, I will, ſhall not exceede the Value of Fiftie Pounds. Item, I give and deviſe unto the poore People of the Citty of *Canterbury* and the Suburbs thereof, the Sume of Twenty Pounds of lawfull Money of *England*, to be diſtributed amongeſt them in Bread the Day next after my Funerall, if it may be conveniently done, at the Diſcretion of my Executor. Item, I doe hereby nominate and appointe my very good Friend *John Coppin* of the ſaid City of *Canterbury*, Gent. to be the Executor of this my laſt Will and Teſtament. And I doe hereby give and deviſe unto the ſaid *John Coppin*, my ſaid Executor, the Sume of Twenty Pounds of lawfull Money of *England*, to buy him Mourning. Item, I give and deviſe unto my Sonn *Edward Bridges*, the Sume of Foure hundred Pounds of lawfull Money of *England*, to be paid unto him when he ſhall attain unto his Age of One and twenty Yeares, by my ſaid Executor. Item, I give and deviſe unto my Maide Servant that ſhall be livinge with me at the Time of my Deceaſe, the Sume of Ten Pounds of lawfull Money of *England*, to be paid unto her by my Executor, to buy her Mourninge. Item, It is my Will, that in caſe my Perſonall Eſtate which I ſhall leave at the Time of my Deceaſe, ſhall not be ſufficient for the Payment of my Debts, Legacies, and Funerall Charges, that then my ſaid Executor, by and out of the Rents and Profitts of my Reall Eſtate, ſhall pay and diſcharge the Sume or Sumes of Money

that ſhall be wanting to pay and diſcharge the ſame; but if my ſaid Perſonall Eſtate, at the Time of my Deceaſe, ſhall amountt to more than will pay my ſaid Debts, Legacies, and Funerall Charges, then tis my Will that ſuch Overplus ſhall be paid by my Executor, unto and amongſt my Three Sons *John*, *Edward*, and *Thomas*, equally, at their reſpective Ages of One and twenty Years. Item, I give and deviſe unto my loveing Siſter *Mary*, the Wife of *Symon Millen*, One Annuity or Yearly Rent Charge of Ten Pounds of lawfull Money of *England*, to be yearely iſſuing and going out of all that my Meſſuage, Farme, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, with the Appurtenances, called *Upſtreet Farme*, ſituate, lyinge, and beinge, in the Pariſh of *Chiſlett*, in the County of *Kent*, and now in the Tenure or Occupacõn of *Richard Knowler*, or of his Aſſignes, to have and to hold, and yearely to receave, ꝑceave, and take the ſaid Annuity or Yearely Rent Charge of Ten Pounds, unto my ſaid Siſter, and her Aſſignes, for and duringe the Terme of her naturall Life, which I will ſhall be paid her quarterly, without any Deductions or Abatements for or in reſpect of any Taxes or Seſſes whatſoever, at the Feaſts of St. Michael the Archangell, the Birth of our Lord Chriſt, the Annunciacõn of the Bleſſed Virgin Mary, and the Nativity of St. John the Baptiſt, by equall Portions; the Firſt Payment thereof to begin and to be made at the Firſt of the ſaid Feaſts, or Days of Payment, that ſhall next happen after the Deceaſe of the aforeſaid *Symon Millen*, and not before; and if it ſhall happen the ſaid Annuity or Yearely Rent Charge of Ten Pounds, or any Parte thereof, to be behinde or unpaid after any of the ſaid Feaſts or Days of Payment in which the ſame ought to be paid as aforeſaid, I doe hereby will and deviſe, that it ſhall and may be lawfull to and for my ſaid Siſter *Mary*, and her Aſſignes, to enter into and uppon all or any of the ſaid Meſſuage, Farme, Lands, or Tenements, charged therewith as aforeſaid, and to diſtraine for the ſame; and the Diſtreſſe and Diſtreſſes then and there found, to leade, drive, carry away, detayne, impound, and keepe, untill the ſaid Annuity or Yearely Rent Charge of Ten Pounds, and the Arrearages thereof, be fully ſatisfied, contented, and paid. Item, I give and deviſe unto my eldeſt Son *John Bridges*, and to his Heires and Aſſignes, for ever, all thoſe ſeverall Farmes, Lands, and Tenements, which I purchaſed of *Thomas Kirby*, lyeing and beinge in the Pariſh of *Birchington*, in the Iſle of *Thanet*, and County of *Kent*, and now in the ſeverall Tenures or Occupacõns of *William Coleman* and *John Ellington*, or One of them, their, or One of their Aſſignes; and alſoe all that my Meſſuage or Tenement, Barnes, Buildings, and all thoſe

ſeverall Pieces or Parcells of Land, Paſture, and freſh Marſhe, conteyninge, by Eſtimacon, One hundred and thirty Acres, more or leſſe, with the Appurtenances, ſeituate, lyinge, and beinge in the Pariſhes of *Weſthieth* & *Dymchurch*, or One of them, in the ſaid County of *Kent*, and nowe or late in the ſeverall Tenures or Occupations of the Lords of the Levell of *Romney* Marſhe, *Thomas Amis*, *Richard Adams*, and the Widdowe *Elgen*, or of their, or ſome or One of their Aſſignes or Undertenants; and alſo all that my Meſſuage, Farme, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, called *Upſtreet Farme*, ſituate, lyinge, & beinge, in the Pariſhe of *Chiſlett*, in the ſaid County of *Kent*, and now in the Tenure or Occupacon of the ſaid *Richard Knowler*, or of his Aſſignes or Undertenants; and alſoe all other my Meſſuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, ſituate, lyinge, and beinge, in the ſaid Pariſhes of *Dymchurch*, *Weſthieth*, and *Chiſlett*, or any of them, in the ſaid County of *Kent*. Item, I give and deviſe unto my Son *Edward Bridges*, and to the Heirs of his Body, all that my Farme and Lands which I purchaſed of *Daniel Jenken* Gent. lyinge and beinge in the aforeſaid Pariſhe of *Birchington*, and in the Vill of Wood, in the ſaid Iſle of *Thanet*, and nowe in the Occupation of *Thomas Bridges*, or of his Aſſignes; and alſoe all that my Piece or Parcell of Land, contayning, by Eſtimation, Two Acres, more or leſſe, with the Appurtenances, lyinge and beinge in the ſaid Pariſh of *Birchington*, in the Iſle & County aforeſaid, which I purchaſed of *Thomas Kirby* the Younger, and is nowe likewiſe in the Tenure or Occupacon of the ſaid *Thomas Bridges*, or of his Aſſignes or Undertenants; and alſoe all thoſe my Two Meſſuages or Tenements, with the Gardens and Backſides to the ſame belonging, ſcituate, lyinge, and beinge in the Pariſhe of *All Saints*, in the aforeſaid Citty of *Canterbury*, which I lately purchaſed of *Samuell Bright* and his Wife, and are nowe, or late were, in the ſeverall Tenures or Occupations of *Thomas Marſh* Gent. and *Damin Symon* Dcor in Phyſick, or One of them, their or One of their Aſſignes or Undertenants; and for Default of Heires of the Body of my ſaid Son *Edward Bridges*, I give and deviſe the ſame Meſſuages, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, unto my Son *Thomas Bridges*, and the Heires of his Body; and for Want of ſuch Iſſue, I give & deviſe the ſame unto my Son *John Bridges*, and his Heires for ever. Item, I give and deviſe unto my Son *Thomas Bridges*, and to the Heires of his Body, all thoſe my Two Meſſuages or Tenements, with the Sellers, Sollars, Roomes, Lights, Eaſements, Warehouſes, Stables, Profitts, & Appurtenances to the ſame belonginge, ſcituate and beinge in the Pariſhe of St. *Andrew*,

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in the Citty of *Canterbury* aforeſaid, and nowe in the ſeverall Tenures or Occupacons of me the ſaid *John Bridges* and *Moſes Agar*, or One of our Aſſigns; and alſo all thoſe my ſeverall Houſes, Lands, & Tenements whatſoever, ſcituate, lyinge, and beinge, in the Pariſh of *Oſpringe*, within the Libty's of the Towne of *Faverſham*, in the ſaid County of *Kent*; and alſoe all thoſe my ſeverall Pieces or Parcells of Land lyinge and beinge in the ſeverall Pariſhes of *Divington*, *Murſton*, and *Ore*, or ſome or One of them, in the ſaid County of *Kent*, and nowe or late in the Occupacon of *John Minge*, or of his Aſſignes; and alſoe all thoſe my ſeverall Meſſuages, Lands, and Tenements whatſoever, lyinge and beinge in the Pariſhe of *Lynſted*, in the ſaid County of *Kent*, in or neere a certaine Streete there, called *Greenſtreete*, all which I doe give unto my ſaid Son *Thomas Bridges*, and the Heires of his Body; and for want of ſuch Iſſue, I doe give and deviſe the ſame unto my ſaid Son *Edward Bridges*, and the Heires of his Body; and for want of ſuch Iſſue, I give and deviſe the ſame unto my ſaid Son *John Bridges*, and to his Heires for ever. Item, I doe hereby conſtitute & appointe the ſaid *John Coppin* my ſaid Executor, to be Guardian of my ſaid Three Sons, and to have the Tuition, Cuſtody, and Educaton of them, until they ſhall ſeverally attaine unto their reſpective Ages of One and twenty Yeares; and that he ſhall take and receave for them, during their ſaid Minorties, the Rents and Profitts of the ſaid Meſſuages, Lands, and Tenements, ſoe ſeverally deviſed unto them, deſiringe my ſaid Executor to bring them up in ſuch Profeſſions, Trades, or Imployments, as he in his Diſcretion ſhall thinke fitt. And my Will and Meaneinge is, that my ſaid Executor ſhall yearely, from Time to Time, at the End of every Yeare after my Deceaſe, or within Six Months after, make up and ſtate ſeverall Accompts, as well of all and ſingular ſuch Goods, Chattles, Moneys, and other my Perſonall Eſtate, which he ſhall receive, or which ſhall come to his Hands; and of all his Receipts, Payments, and Diſburſements, for, touchinge, and concerninge the Execucon of this my Will; as alſoe of all the Rents and Profitts which he ſhall receave as Guardian to my ſaid Sons, or any of them, and of all Payments and Diſburſements for them, or any of them; which ſaid ſeverall Accompts I do hereby will and appointe, ſhall be yearely made and ſtated before *Robert Garrett* of *Wootten*, in the ſaid County of *Kent*, Clerke, and *Henry Shrubſole*, of the ſaid Citty of *Canterbury*, Gent. or the Survivor of them, whome I doe hereby appointe Overſeers of this my Will, wherein I deſire my ſaid Overſeers to make unto my ſaid Executors all juſt and reaſonable Allowances; and the ſaid Accompts beinge

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ſo made up and ſtated, I doe will and appointe, ſhall from Time to Time, yearely and every Yeare, be entered and written in a Book to be kept for that Purpoſe; and if my ſaid Overſeers, or the Survivor of them, ſhall approve and allow thereof, I doe hereby will and deſire, that as well my ſaid Executor as my ſaid Overſeers, or the Survivor of them, doe ſigne and ſubſcribe the ſaid Accompts from Time to Time; and I doe hereby declare, that ſuch Accompt and Accompts ſoe made and ſtated, allowed and approved, as aforeſaid, ſhall be taken and allowed as good and juſt Accompts in all Points: And the ſaid *John Coppin*, either as Executor of this my Will, or as Guardian to any of my ſaid Children, ſhall not be bound or lyable, either in Lawe or Equity, to make any further or other Accompt thereof; and will and appointe that yearely, upon the takinge and ſtateing the ſaid Accompts, there ſhall be laid out and expended upon my ſaid Overſeers, or ſuch of them as are p'ſent, the yearely Sume of Twenty Shillings, to be allowed in the ſaid Accompts, out of the Rents and Profitts of my ſaid Sons equally. And I doe alſoe hereby will and declare, that the ſaid *John Coppin*, over and beſide all his juſt and reaſonable Expences and Diſburſements, and Travellinge Charges, ſhall be allowed, and ſhall and may retaine for his Paines and Care in the Execution of this my Will, the Sume of Ten Pounds of good and lawfull Money of *England per Ann.* to be allowed in his ſaid Accompts out of the Rents and Profitts of my ſaid Sons equally. And I doe hereby will and declare, that if upon the ſaid Accompts there ſhall be any Thinge remaineing and coming due to my ſaid Sons, or any of them, after all Deductions and Allowances made, that when any of my ſaid Sons Parte and Share of the ſame ſhall amount to any conſiderable Sume, the ſaid *John Coppin* ſhall and may lay out and diſpoſe of the ſame for the Benefitt and Advantage of ſuch of my Sons to whome the ſame ſhall be due and comeing, or as he ſhall thinke fitt; wherein if any Loſſe ſhall happen, I doe hereby will, that the ſame ſhall not be borne by the ſaid *John Coppin*. And I doe further will and declare, that my ſaid Executor ſhall not be accomptable for any Intereſt of the Money raiſed out of the Rents and Profitts of my Lands and Tenements, untill the ſame ſhall be laid out in the Purchaſe of Lands, or untill and for ſuch Time only as the ſame ſhall be placed out at Intereſt for the Uſe of my ſaid Sons reſpectively; and if the ſaid *John Coppin* ſhall happen to dye before he hath fully performed and executed this my Will, and the Truſts in him repoſed, or during the Minority of my ſaid Sons,

or any of them, then I doe hereby nominate and appointe the aforeſaid *Robert Garrett*, and after the Death of the ſaid *John Coppin*, to be Executor of this my laſt Will and Teſtament, and to be the Guardian of my ſaid Three Sons, or ſuch of them as ſhall not have attained their Age of One and twenty Yeares, in the Roome and Stead of the ſaid *John Coppin*, and for the Performance and Execution of this my Will, in all Reſpects as is before lymitted. And I doe hereby will and appointe that the ſaid *Robert Garrett*, in caſe he ſhall take upon him the Execution of this my Will, ſhall have all ſuch Allowances for his Paines and Care and otherwiſe, as is before mentioned; and that he ſhall yearely and every Yeare make up and ſtate his Accompts, in like Manner as is before mentioned; and if the ſame be approved, allowed, and ſigned, by my ſaid Overſeere in Manner as aforeſaid, that the ſame ſhall be taken and allowed as juſt and good Accompts in all Points; and my ſaid Executor ſhall not be bound or lyable to make any further or other Accompt therefore either in Lawe or Equity. In Witneſs whereof, I the ſaid *John Bridges*, to this my laſt Will and Teſtament, (conteyned in Five Sheets of Paper), to every Sheet have ſett my Hand and Seale, this Third Day of *May* in the Eleaventh Yeare of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord *William* the Third, by the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoq' Din' 1699.

" *John Bridges* (L. S.)

" Signed, ſealed, publiſhed, and declared, by the above named *John Bridges* to be his laſt Will and Teſtament, in the Preſence of us whoſe Names are hereunder written, who did atteſt and ſubſcribe the ſame in the Preſence of the ſaid Teſtator.

" *Richd Monins*, *John Cheever*, *John Barham*."

" Whereas I *John Bridges*, of the Citty of *Canterbury* Grocer, have, in and by my laſt Will and Teſtament, given and deviſed unto my Son *Thomas Bridges* and his Heires, my Meſſuage or Tenement called or knowne by the Name or Signe of *The White Horſe*, ſcituate in the Pariſhe of *Oſpringe*, in the County of *Kent*, nowe in the Occupac̃on of *John Goodſole* or his Aſſignes, which ſaid Meſſuage, and the Buildings thereunto belonging, are very much out of Repaire and in Decay; therefore I doe hereby will, direct, and appointe, Mr. *John Coppin* the Executor of my ſaid Will within Two Yeares after my Deceaſe, or as ſoon after as may be, to pull down the ſaid Meſſuage & Buildings thereunto

unto belonginge, and to rebuild the ſame in ſuch Manner as he in his Diſcretion ſhall thinke fitt; and for the enablinge him thereunto, I will the Sum̃e of One Pounds of lawfull Money of *England* ſhall be raiſed out of the Rents and Profitts of my Reall Eſtate by him for that Purpoſe; and I further declare, and it is my Will, that if any of my Sons ſhall attaine their Ages of One and twenty Yeares, before the Legacies given by my Will can be raiſed and my Will fully p̃formed by and out of the Rents and Profitts of my Eſtates, then I will my ſaid Executor ſhall, notwithſtanding, receive the Rents and Profitts of my Real Eſtate, untill the ſaid Legacies ſhall thereby be fully raiſed and my Will p̃formed. Item, I give unto my Maide Servant *Elizabeth Lambe*, my Bed, Bedſteadle, Curtains, and Vallance thereunto belonging, now ſtandinge in the Garrett over the Chamber of my Dwelling-houſe wherein I now lye, for her Care and Paines taken with me in the Time of my Sickneſs; and I do hereby declare this Codicill to be Parte of my laſt Will and Teſtament, and doe hereby ratifye and confirme my ſaid Will in all Things not contrary hereunto. In Witneſs whereof, I the ſaid *John Bridges* have hereunto ſett my Hand and Seale, this Fift Day of *November*, in the Eleventh Yeare of the Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord *William* the Third, by the Grace of God, of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Kinge, Defender of the Faith, &c. Annoq; Dñi 1699.

" *John Bridges* (L. S.)

" Signed, ſealed, publiſhed, and declared, by the above named *John Bridges*, to be Part of his laſt Will and Teſtament, in the p̃ſence of us who ſubſcribed our Names hereunto in the p̃ſence of the ſaid Teſtator.

" *John Thornly*, *John Cheever*, *George Cheever*.

Proved the Twenty-ſecond Day of *December* 1699, by the Oath of *John Coppin*, the Executor named in the ſaid Will, &c.

" Exam^d. *Thos Backhouſe* Regiſtrar."
Wm Cullen."

Then the Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Robert Harriſon* was again called in, and produced an Office Copy of divers Proceedings, to obtain Adminiſtration of the Goods and Chattels of Lady *Aſtley*.

The ſame was read, and is as follows:

"Extracted from the Regiſtry of the Prerog' Co' of Canterbury.

"2do die Juridico poſt Feſt' ſive diem Aſcenſ' Dñi Jeſu Chriſti die Sabb 13, Viz' die Menſis Maij A° D. 1648 Coram Venth' et Egreg' Viro Dño Nath' Brent Mil' Legum Dcore Curiæ Prerog' Magro ſive Cuſtode ſtime conſtitut' in Cœnaculo infra Hoſpm Dnorum Advocatm ſcituat' infra Poam Sti Bened' prop' Ripam paulinm Lond' judicit' et pro' Trib' ſeden' in pntia Alexi Southwood Norii Pubii Diæ Curiæ Actuarij &c.

"Negotium conceſſ'is Adm' bonm &c Dñæ Cath' Aſtley nup' de Maidſtone in Com' Cantij Viduæ def' pmotum per Johm Bridges Conſob' et px Conſang' dcæ defeæ con' honoranda' Femina' Dñam Franciſca' Comitiſſa Dotiſſa' Exon'.

Gaell. Francklyn.

"Quo die Gaell ex' procurium ſuum prædco Johanne Bridges et fecit ſe ptem pro eodem et all' dcam Dñam Catharinam Aſtley ad 4 mens' ult' elaps' ab inteſt deceſſiſſe Haben' &c' et all' dc'um Johannm Bridges ptem ſuam fuiſſe et eſſe Conſobm Anglice Coſen German et prox' Conſang' dci def'ti pq' tali com'ter reputat' Viz' patrem n'ralem et ltimum dci Johis Bridges et patm nratem et ltimum dcæ Dñæ Aſtley def' fuiſſe (dum vix') fratres nrates et ltimos pq' talibus com'ter reputat' Quam allne poſuit conm et dm eandemq' admitti petiit Lras q' Admis bonorm &c dcæ Dñæ Cath' Aſtley def' dco Bridges pti ſuæ comitti et obtulit quamcuq' caucoene' p' dnum approband' et petijt jus &c. In pntia Francklyn exhibentis prcurium ſuu' p' honorandæ femina Franciſca Comitiſſa Dotiſſa Exon' et facien' ſe ptem pro eadem acceptan' allegata' p' Gaell quatenus faciunt p' pte ſua et non alr et quatns con' &c diſſen' et infician' &c et proteſtand' de nullitate &c et allegan' nihil de decernendn' ad peticoem Gaell in hmoi caa eo quod pars Gaell dcæ Dñæ Cath' Aſtley def' in nullo gradu conſang' fuit aut eſt Et tunc dcus Francklyn allegav' dcam honm feminam Dñam Francim Comm Dotm Exon' fuiſſe et eſſe px conſang' dcæ Dñæ Cath' Aſtley def' (de cujus &c) viz' Avum nralem et ltimum dcæ honm et p' nobs femæ Dñæ Franciſæ Comæ Dotæ Exon' et Patrem nralem et ltimum dcæ Dñæ Cath' Aſtley def' (de cujus &c) fuiſſe (dum inter vivos extiterunt) fratres nrales et ltimos pq' com'ter talibus reputatos Qua' Allegm dcus Franckn poſuit conm et dcm eandemq' admitti petijt necnon Lras Admis bonoru' jurium et creditm dcæ Dñæ Cath' Aſtley def' dcæ Dñæ Franciſcæ Comæ Dotæ Exon' committi ſub idonea caucoe ac Jus &c in pntia Gaell diſſen' Sed Dnus ad peticoem procurium hinc-

inde admiſit All^{us} hincinde ꝑ procur̃es hincinde fact' quatꝰ de jure ſint admitt^d Tunc admiſſ^s et repetitis Allegac̃onibus hincinde ꝑ procur̃es hincinde fact' in vim &^c procur̃ibus hincinde non credend' Gaell juravit quod fidem poſuit All^{ter} ꝑ dc̃am et petijt Rōnſum dari eidem ꝑ Francklyn ad ſtatim ac jus &^c dco Francklyn diſſen' et vigore Juramenꝯ ꝑ en' tunc ꝑ ſtiti non credenꝯ inter̃e' ꝑtis Gaell allegatn' Tunc Francklyn juravit quod fidel^r poſuit all^{ter} ꝑ dc̃am ꝑ cum fact' et petijt Rōnſum dari eidem ꝑ Gaell ad ſtatim ac jus &^c dco Gaell diſſen' et ron̄dendo non credend' inte̅ree ꝑtis Francklyn allegat̃n' Tunc Francklyn all^s ſe poſſe melius relevari ex Rōnſis dc̃i Bridges ꝑtis princi^{lis} Quare petijt Rōnſis ꝑſonalibus dc̃i Bridges decerni ac Jus &c. dco Gaell diſſen' et ſimitr allegañ ſe poſſe melius Relevari ex Rōnſis dc̃æ honorandæ Feminæ dn̄æ Franciſcæ Com^{tiſſ} Dot^{ꝝ} Exon' decerni ac jus &^c dco Francklyn diſſen' Unde D̃nus decrevit pro p̃tibus prin̄libus hincinde ad' ſextu' p^x &^c procuriti̅s hincinde diſſen' &^c Et aſſ^t procur̃ibus hincinde ad proband' Allegac̃oes ꝑ dc̃as hincinde fc̃as tertia ab hinc Seſſione Et Monuit procur̃es hincinde ad ꝑhibend' ꝑ^r ſen̄tia hincinde quandocu̅q' extra Curie pendente termino probatorio pred' ad vivend' Teſtes hincinde ꝑ duc̃i ſoluto hincinde Sportulagio procur̃ibus hincinde diſſen'.

" Geo Goſtling
James Townley } Deputy
Nath Goſtling } Regiſters."

451 1648
Ex^d.

15 Maij 1648.

" Bridges con' D̃nam Comitiſſ^m Dotiſſam Exon'.
Gaell. Francklyn.

" Die pred' Coram Mag̃ro W^{mo} Forth Leg^m Doctore Surro' Vendis &^c &^c,

" Quo die Francklyn ſuper Allegac̃one ats ex parte ſua in hac Cā a Apud Acta fact' produxit Teſtes Phillippam Savage et Suſannam Maſculine quas D̃nus Dicis' petic̃onem recepit Juramentor' vñt et mon' ad ſub eund^m exam̃en citro prox' in p̃tia Gaell diſſen' et proteſtan' de nulle et caſu quo proteſtand' de dicendo con^a &^c ſi &^c et peten' quod reddant veras cā̃as et hen' pro Interrijs tempus uſitatum.

" Geo. Goſtling
James Townley } Deputy
Nath. Goſtling } Regiſters."

459 1648
Ex^d.

2do

" 2da Juridico post fest' St et indiv' Trin' 30 Martis viz' die Maij A° 1648 Coram &c &c.

" Bridges con' D'nam Com^m Dot^m Exon'. Gaell. Francklyn. } " Moniti erant Testes ad subeund' eoru' Exam' citra hunc diem Quo die D'nus ad Peticōem Francklyn Publicavit dicta et depositiones Testium ex p^te sua in hi^moi Causa Examinat' et decrevit p^tibus copias in p^ntia Gaell dissen' &c Tunc Francklyn protestatus est de non per contando eor' dca et Depositiones.

" G. G. &c."

468 1647 Ex^a.

" Tertia Sess^e Term' Trin' die Ven' 16 vizt die Mensis Junij A. D. 1648 Coram venerab' &c &c.

" Bridges con' D'nam Com^m Dot^m Exon'. Gaell. Francklyn. } " Ad proband' Allegata hinc-inde Quo die Gaell All^t p^tem suam habere nonnullos Testes in p^tibus quos ad hoc Tribunal' commode adducere' non potest Unde D'nus ad peticōem Gaell decrevit Commissionem fieri ad p^tes pro Examinacōe Testium ex p^te sua Et Ass^r ad nominand' Com^nes dies et locu' in prox' Et con^t Causam in statu quo nunc est in prox' In p^ntia Francklyn dissen'.

" G. G. &c."

508 1647 Ex^d.

" Ultima Sessione Term' Trin' die Martis 27 die Mens' Junij A. D. 1648 Coram &c &c.

" Bridges con' D'nam Com^m Exon' Gaell. Francklyn. } " Ad nominand' Com^nes dies et locum Gaell habet Et cont^a est hæc ca'a in statu quo fuit in hunc diem.

" Quo die Gaell specificando All^nem ats ex p^te sua apud Acta Curiæ fact' quoad intere'e p^tis suæ dedit All^nem arlātam in Scriptis conceptam Et D'nus ad ejus peticōem admisit Allegacōem pred' quat'ns de jure est admittend' Tunc repetit dca Allegacōem in vim &c dco Francklyn non creden' &c D'nus ad' petic' Gaell decrev' p' p^te princi^li ad se p^tem p' &c dco Francklyn

lyn diſſen' Deinde D̃nus ad peticõem Gaell Allegand' p̃tem ſuoꝝ habere nonnullos Teſt̃es in p̃tibus quos ad hoc Tribunal commode adducere non poteſt decret Com^nem fieri ad p̃tes ꝓ eorum Examinacõe et commiſit vices ſuas Mag̃ris.

" Com^m et di^m ad ſedend' in Eccleſia po^li de Cirenceſter in Com' Glouc' tertio, quarto, et quinto reſpe' diebus Menſis Octobris prox' futur' cum continuacõe et prõgacõe dierum et loci ex tunc prox' ſequen' ſi &c Aſſumpto quocunq' No^rio Pub^co p̃libus pred' indifferend' in eorum Actorum Scribam &c et monuit Francklyn ad tunc et ibm intereſſend' ſi &c Et Aſſ^t ad tranſmittend' dcam Commiſſionem ſecunda Seſſione pr̃ximi Termini et con^t Cauſam in ſtatu quo nunc eſt in eundem diem dco Francklyn diſſen' et p̃teſtand' de nullitate &c et haben' ꝓ Interrijs vel Com^m annectend' vel in p̃tibus miniſtrand'.

" Geo. Goſtling, &c."

537 1647 Ex^d.

" Prima Seſſione Termini Michaelis die Martis viceſimo quarto viz' die mens Oct^s A° D. 1648 Coram vendi viro D̃no Nath' Brent &c &c.

" Bridges con' D̃nam Com^m Exon', Gaell. Francklyn. } " Quo die Gaell repetijt Alleg^m arlatam ex p̃te ſua in hac Caã dat' et adm^s et petijt Ron̄ſu dari eidem ꝓ Francklyn ac jus &c in p̃ntia Francklyn Ron̄dendo creden' intere̅e dci Bridges p̃tis Gaell allegãtu' dco Gaell acceptan' quatns &c et allegacõem intencõem p̃tis ſuæ fuiſſe et eſſe in hac p̃te ſufficien̅r fundata Quare petijt L̃ras Ad^nis omniu' et ſingõloru' bon^m &c dcæ D̃næ Aſtley def' dcæ p̃ti ſuæ committend' fore decerni et obtulit quamcunq' caucõem ꝓ D'num approband' et petijt jus &c in p̃ntia Francklyn exhiben' pecu̅rium ſuum ꝓ quodam Nicholao Alexander et facien' ſe p̃tem pro eodem diſſen' et p̃teſtan' de nullitate &c et Allega̅n petita ꝓ Gaell de jure fieri non de bene eo quod dca defunct' Dum vixit mentis compos Teſtamentu' ſũu' ſive ultima' ſuam Vo^tem condidit et declaravit et in eodem ſive eadem omnia bona ſua ſive maxima' p̃tem eoru' dco Nicholao Alexander donavit et pe̅ten terminu' ſibi aſſi ad propoñend' hmoi Teſtamentu' juſq' &c D̃co Gaell diſſen' et infician' &c et p̃teſtand' de null^te &c et allegan' et pe̅ten ut prius juſq' &c Unde D̃nus aſſ' Francklyn ad proponend' in forma p̃ elſe ſecunda Seſſione abhinc dco Gaell diſſen'.

1648 } 6 1649 }

" Geo^e Goſtling, &c."

Ex^d.

" 2 Juridico poſt feſt' S̃cti Martini die Martis 14 viz' die Mens' Nov' A. D. 1648 Coram Venen̄di &c.

" Bridges cont' D̃nam Com^m Exon'. } " Ad proponend' in forma
Gaell. Francklyn. } p̃ciſe Francklyn habet.

" Quo die Dyer petijt ꝺcum Alexander p̃tem Francklyn arctari at proponend' Teſtamentu' ꝺci ꝺefti in forma juris juxta Aſſignac̃oenem alioq^n L̃ras ad^mis bonor' &c ꝺci def' de cujus bonor' Adm' in hac ca̅ contro^rtitur tanquu' ab inteſtato deceden' ꝺcæ Bridges p̃ti ſuæ ſub idonea cau̅coe committi et concedi ac jus &c Sed D̃nus Aſs' Francklyn ad proponend' Teſtamentu' ꝺci def' in pros' ꝑciſe ꝺco Gaell diſſen'.

" Geo. Goſtling, &c."

37 1648 Ex^d.

" 2do Juridico poſt feſt. Sc^ti Edm^i Regis 22 Nov^s 1648 Coram &c &c.

" Bridges con' D^a Com^s Exon' } " Ad Audiend' Vo^tem D̃ni
Gaell. Francklyn. } ſup' pet' Gaell,

" Quo die Gaell pet' Ad^m bon' &c ꝺcæ D̃næ Aſtley def' ꝺco Bridges p̃ti ſuæ committi ac jus &c in p̃ntia Franck^n diſs' et p̃rteſt' de nullit' &c et petend' ult^m term' ſibi aſs^m ad proponend' Teſt' ꝺci defti' in ꝑ Gaell diſſen' et pteſt' de null^te &c. et al^s legan̄ de his p̃ciſe Aſs^m ꝺco Franckly^n ad proponend' Teſt pred' referendo ſe ad Acta et Reg^m hujus Curiæ et ideo ulter' term' non e̅ de jure &c Francklyn concedend' Sed D̃nus ex Gra̅a Aſs' ꝺco Francklyn ad p̃ponend' in forma preciſe in prox' ante hos tertia ſine ſpeciler contin' Gaell diſſen'.

" G. G. &c."

67 1648 Ex^t.

" 2do die Jurid' poſt feſt' St And^e die Sab̄ 2 die menſ' Decemb' A. D. 1648 in Cœnaculo &c.

" Bridges con' d̃nam Com^m Exon' et alios et Alexander ꝑ' interc̃e. } " Ad p̃ponend' in forma p̃ciſe in hoc &c ante hor' tertiam Francklyn hab' ſine ſpe ult' Term' ad proponend' in forma.
Gaell. Francklyn.

Quo die Gaell petijt ut prius ſcilicet L̃ras Adm^s bonor' jurium et credit^m dic̃æ Dominæ Aſtley def' p̃ti ſuæ comitti juſq' &c

In p̃ntia Francklyn diſſen' et peten' petita p̃' Gaell rejici ac jus &c Unde D'nus ad' peticōem Gaell decrevit L'ras Adm bon' jur̃ et cred' d̃æ def̃æ p̃ti Gaell committi & decrevit Commiſſ' fieri p̃' recep̃ ejus Juramenti et Cautiōnis in ea p̃te juxta forma Regiſtri in ſimilibus uſitat' et Juris in ea p̃te exigen' d̃co Francklyn diſſen'.

" G. G. &c."

1648
83 1649
Ex^d.

" Menſe Januarij 1648/9.

" D^na Catherina Aſtley xviij° die Em^t Com^r Johanni Bridges Conſobrino D̃næ Catherinæ Aſtley nup' de Maidſtone in Com' Cantij deft' hentis &c ad adſtrand' bona jura et credita d̃ci deft' de bene &c jurat vigore Com̃nis als in ea p̃te Eman'."

Aſcen' Blarij 1649."

Ex^d.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Charles Abbott* was again called in, and examined as follows:

Whether, at the Time you made the Search amongſt the Claimant's Papers, you were referred to any other Perſon, and to any other Papers which had been in that Houſe?

It ſtruck me, after the Search was made, that I did not find any Deeds, I mean any Purchaſe Deeds of Eſtates bought by *John Bridges*. Conceiving he had been the Purchaſer of ſeveral different Eſtates, I mentioned to Mr. *Egerton Bridges*, the next Time I ſaw him, my Surprize at not having found Deeds of that Deſcription at *Wootton*. He informed me, that they had been taken away by himſelf, and they were afterwards ſent by him for my Inſpection, accompanied with ſome other Deeds, which I believe related to the Family of *Coppin* or *Gibbon*; but cannot ſpeak with Accuracy as to the other Deeds. I had no Obſervation to make upon the Deeds of the Eſtates purchaſed by Mr. *John Bridges*; I enquired after them to ſatisfy my own Mind.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then

Then Mr. *Egerton Bridges* was again called in, and examined as follows:

Did you take from the Houſe of your Brother, the Claimant, the Deeds which the laſt Witneſs has referred to?

I did.

Have you any Reaſon to believe that any Papers were taken from the Houſe of your Brother, which you found there upon your Search, except thoſe Deeds which you afterwards ſent to Mr. *Abbot*, in conſequence of his Enquiry?

None. When they were enquired after I was a little frightened, for I thought they had been miſlaid; and I went down to *Canterbury* on Purpoſe to look for them. They were all in a Box in which they had been put, in the Houſe of Mrs. *Birch*, my Mother-in-Law, at *Canterbury*.

Have you any Reaſon to believe that any of the Papers, an imperfect Search amongſt which you made when you retired laſt Time, had been removed before the Search which Mr. *Abbot* made?

None. I have no Doubt.

Croſs-examined.

When did you firſt hear of the conteſted Adminiſtration of Mr. *Aſtley*?

Mr. *Townſhend* told me of it, I think, at the End of the Year 1789. I made a Remark to him, that it was very ſingular, that, though I had been in that Office ſo often, I ſhould never find that Adminiſtration; and I added, that I ſhould then go and ſearch for it. Mr. *Townſhend* anſwered, it was not in the common Room; it was in a Room I could not get at, but which he could, from his private Acquaintance with the Clerks. From that Time I never thought any more about it for a great while; I do not exactly know what Time, becauſe, when I came to conſider it, I thought if ſuch Adminiſtration did exiſt, it did not affect the Caſe, becauſe I had Reaſon to think that *Edward*, the Son of *Robert*, was not then living. After Mr. *Townſhend*'s Conduct induced me not to have the ſame Confidence in him I formerly had, I went to Sir *William Scott*, and requeſted the Favour of him to get me Admiſſion into the private Room. I went up Stairs, and enquired for any Adminiſtrations that might not be down Stairs. I could find none; and the Clerk told me there were none. I then aſked what the Books were that ſtood round the Room; they told me they were various Proceedings regarding their Courts. I looked through the Indexes till it was very late,

almoſt

almoſt Time for the Court to ſhut; and I hit upon Part of the Proceedings now brought forwards. I looked at them, and did not underſtand them, but inſtantly aſked the Clerk again whether there was any; he told me there were none but what were down Stairs. I was not ſatisfied with the Anſwer of the Clerk above Stairs, becauſe he was a very young Man. I went down to ſome of the other Clerks, and they all aſſured me there were none but what were down Stairs. I then gave the Search up.

Did you learn any Thing relative to the Proceedings of the Adminiſtration?

Very little. I found there were Proceedings between *John Bridges* and the Counteſs of *Exeter*, but I never found that they proceeded to an Adminiſtration; and I the leſs ſearched after it, becauſe, upon looking into the Pedigree and the next of Kinſhip, if *Edward*, as formerly believed, was dead, the Adminiſtration could not affect at all; becauſe *John*, the Son of *Edward*, was exactly in the ſame Degree of Kindred with *John*, to whom it was ſaid to have been granted.

At what Time did you make the Search you are now mentioning?

I think it was in *February* 1791, as far as I can recollect.

Have you found amongſt your Family Papers any Traces of a Marriage Settlement between *Edward* and *Katherine Sharpe*?

None whatſoever.

Or any Will or Adminiſtration to *Edward*?

None whatever.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Harvey*, of Counſel for the Claimant, was heard, in Part, to obſerve upon the Evidence.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Propoſed to adjourn this Committee to *Tueſday* next.

Accordingly adjourned to *Tueſday* next.

Die Martis, 28° Aprilis 1795.

The Lord *Walſingham* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read.

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.

The Counſel were called in.

Then Mr. *Harvey*, of Counſel for the Claimant, was further heard to obſerve upon the Evidence; and being fully heard thereupon,

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Propoſed to adjourn this Committee to *Tueſday* next.

Accordingly adjourned to *Tueſday* next.

Die

Die Martis, 5°. *Maij* 1795.

The Lord *Walſingham* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read.

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.

The Counſel were called in.

Then Mr. Solicitor General was heard, in Part, on Behalf of the Crown.

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Propoſed to adjourn this Committee to *Thurſday* next.

Accordingly adjourned to *Thurſday* next.

Die

Die Jovis, 7° Maij 1795.

The Lord *Walſingham* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read.

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read.

The Counſel were called in.

Then Mr. Solicitor General was further heard on Behalf of the Crown; and being fully heard,

The Counſel were directed to withdraw.

Propoſed to adjourn this Committee to *Tueſday* next.

Accordingly adjourned to *Tueſday* next.

Die Martis, 12° *Maij* 1795.

The Lord *Walſingham* in the Chair.

THE Order of Adjournment was read.

The Minutes of the laſt Committee were read. *Chandos* Peerage.

The Counſel were called in.

Then Sir ISAAC HEARD, Garter Principal King of Arms, was called in; and, having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

What is that you have in your Hand?

The Witneſs produced a Book, and ſaid,

This is a Painter's Work Book. It has ſome miſcellaneous Pedigrees, a few Grants of Arms, and Part of a Viſitation of *Hampſhire* in the Year 1575: It is endorſed on the Book, "C 3. P. W. B. Miſcell. Pedig[s] and *Hants* Viſ[n], 1575, *&c.*"

Croſs-examined.

By whom is the Book compiled?

I really do not know. If it is wiſhed that I ſhould deſcribe the Book, I have had it in my Poſſeſſion about 25 Years: I believe it was a Book of the late Mr. *Anſtis*, Garter King of Arms.

Was it compiled by any Perſon who had any Authority to put together ſuch Papers?

I believe, from the ſeveral Entries in this Book, particularly by the Painter's Work Part, that it was done under the Authority of ſome Officer of Arms at that Time.

What induces you to think ſo?

From the ſeveral Deſcriptions I ſee of Funerals.

If you had found that Book in the *Aſhmolean* Muſeum at *Oxford*, ſhould you have had the ſame Opinion of it?

I have great Doubts of that; and for this Reaſon, becauſe I might not be ſure that Yeſterday it might not have been made an improper Uſe of.

Whether you would not have the ſame Reaſon to ſuppoſe it poſſible that an improper Uſe had been made of it before it came into your Poſſeſſion Five and twenty Years ago?

That Queſtion might not have ariſen in my Mind; but this I am clear of, that no improper Uſe has been made of it ſince it came into my Poſſeſſion.

Did it come into your Poſſeſſion from the Poſſeſſion of any Officer intruſted by Law with ſuch a Book?

I do think I received it from the late Mr. *Bigland*, who was my Predeceſſor in the Office of Garter.

Have you any other ſuch Book in your Poſſeſſion?

I have a great many Painters Work Books.

Do you ever recollect, in fact, any ſuch Books having been given in Evidence in any Court?

I do think I remember ſome to have been given in Evidence at this Bar. I do think ſo.

When?

It has been a Queſtion not at all upon my Mind. I really cannot name any particular Book that has been produced in Evidence of that Deſcription, only as antient Books: But if I may be permitted to ſtate it, I do remember that, in the Claim of the Lord *Willoughby de Parham*, there was a Book produced, and admitted as Evidence, containing miſcellaneous Pedigrees, not a Viſitation, which we conſider as concluſive Evidence; at leaſt I have ſeen them admitted when I have attended.

Do you conſider that Book as your Property, or as the Property of the Office?

It is my Property.

Examined by the Lords.

When you ſpeak of that being a Painter's Work Book, what does it contain; is it any Part of the Tranſactions of the Heralds Office?

It is.

Are there any ſuch Books preſerved in the Heralds Office?

There are many.

Are the Contents of that Book all of One Sort? Does it contain nothing more than what are the Tranſactions of the Heralds Office?

It contains ſeveral of thoſe Funeral Work Pieces partly done by Painters employed by the Heralds Office: It contains a few Pedigrees,

Pedigrees, and ſome Eſcutcheons drawn out, which look to have been drawn out under the Direction of the Heralds.

The Pedigrees are ſeparate?

Yes.

Then the Painting of the Eſcutcheons is the only Thing which you regard as the Tranſactions in the Heralds Office?

There are Pedigree Copies entered there: Whether Tranſcripts made under the Orders of the Heralds Office, or not, I cannot pretend to ſay; but, by the other Parts of the Book, it looks as if there was a general Communication with the Heralds Office at that Time.

Does it appear to have been the Courſe of the Heralds Office, at the Time you are now ſpeaking of, to have Pedigrees drawn out in the Manner and Form in which that Book purports?

Certainly.

There is a Book in the Office, a large Folio, written by *Byſhe* ſoon after the Fire of *London*, where, upon Memory, he put down all the Traces and Arms of Families that he could recollect,—do you know of ſuch a Book?

I believe there is ſuch a Manuſcript now; but am not particularly appriſed of it.

It is ſuggeſted that this Book now produced is written in many different Hands?

Certainly the Pedigrees ſeem to be in different Hands: But I ſpeak of the Work Book; the Funerals referred to would have been regiſtered by the Heralds that attended.

You ſay the Painter's Book is Heraldic Tranſactions, which would naturally be preſerved in the Office; but there appear other Entries of Pedigrees which you are not ſo certain to be Part of the Tranſactions of the Office?

I ſpeak with reſpect to the Funeral Work Book: It ſeems to be exactly concurrent with all Work Books at that Time; and I have examined a Variety of Wills and other Evidences to prove all theſe Entries of the Work Book; and, I ſay, I think it perfectly correct ſo far as I have examined.

Whether thoſe Pedigrees (not ſpeaking of the Work Book) that are alſo bound up in that Book, appear to have been the Work of ſome private Curioſity, or to have been done in any Reſpect whatſoever officially?

I have obſerved the ſame Hand Writing in ſeveral Books in the Office. That Part of the Viſitation is not original; it is a Copy of the Viſitation; and thoſe Pedigrees, as far as I have examined them, agree with the Viſitation of *Hampſhire* 1575.

Have

Have you compared them all?
No.

Have you compared thoſe that are in Queſtion with any original Viſitation?
I have, ſeveral of them.

Is the Entry a Part of the Tranſactions of the Office?
I believe they were entered in conſequence of ſome Orders from the Heralds Office at that Time to the Painters.

What is the Ground of that Belief?
By having compared moſt of the Entries with the Pedigrees and Evidences relative to thoſe Families.

Do you conſider this Book as the Property of the Office, or as your own private Property?
As my own.

Have you compared thoſe Entries in the Work Book with any Evidence or Book in the College of Arms?
I have; I mentioned ſo before.

Theſe particular ones relative to Sir *John Aſtley*?
I have.

Why, then, is this Book produced, and not the Book of the Office?
I will inform the Houſe why there was no Evidence at that Time. It was the Cuſtom for a great Number of Years for the Heralds to take Funeral Certificates of the Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdom, and they were claſſed by Garter, in whoſe Province it was; and the Provincial King of Arms took Certificates of all Degrees under Nobility and Gentry. Theſe Certificates were pretty regularly continued down to about the Year 1638. But notwithſtanding that, there were ſtill Funeral Works that appeared later than that Period. The Reaſon that theſe Funeral Certificates ceaſed, evidently aroſe from the general Troubles in the Kingdom; and no Funeral Certificates were taken from that Period till after the Reſtoration. I believe I have anſwered the Queſtion.

Whether the ſpecific Entries in that Book have been compared with ſpecific Entries in the Heralds Office, which have been vouched by the Heralds as official Proceedings?
They have not; they themſelves would have been produced if there were ſuch.

Nothing of that Purport appears in the Office?
Nothing in that Period.

Then they have not been compared?
No.

The Entries having been irregular?
It did not ariſe from Irregularity, but from the Turbulency of the Times.

Whether, on account of the Irregularity, there were not Certificates omitted at that Time?
The Certificates totally ceaſed about that Period, and were reſumed again after the Reſtoration.

From the Similarity of Hands, is there any Herald Painter or Worker of that Time whoſe Work you ſuppoſe it to be?
I am confident I have ſeen a ſimilar Hand in other Books, but cannot fix upon any particular Herald's Name.

Are there not in the Heralds Office many Books of private Curioſity?
Yes.

Whether other Pedigrees have been entered regularly in the Heralds Office which are entered in that Book?
Some of thoſe Pedigrees there entered at the latter Part of the Book I have compared.

Then they are entered?
Yes, ſome of them.

Do you not keep a Liſt of Fees for ſuch Occaſions? Is there not an old Liſt of Fees?
Yes.

Have you any Book in the Office of Fees received by Heralds upon Funerals?
We have a Series of Books called Partition Books, in which the Diviſion of theſe Fees, or at leaſt a great Number of them, have been regiſtered.

Have you a Book to prove that any Heralds attended theſe Funerals?
I really have never ſeen any Partition of Fees upon this Queſtion; I have never looked.

Examined in Reply.

Whether that Book does not contain Things of different Deſcriptions?
Certainly.

What Part of the Book is that which you deſcribe as a Painter's Work Book?

They are particularly marked in the Index, but the Contents are ſuch Things as are directed to Undertakers; and I believe I ſaid before, that it appeared to me, by Heralds at that Time, for they had a Control over the Painting of Arms; and therefore the Painters reſorted to the College, or were commanded to go there, and take the Directions of ſuch Funerals where Heralds attended.

Whether the Part which contains the Painters Work Book is mixed with that which contains the Pedigrees?

They are bound up together, and the Painters Work Part is in Two diſtinct Diviſions; but nothing intervenes between the Leaves of the working Part.

Can you tell how many Leaves there are of the working Part?

Not from Memory.

Then the Book was ſhewn to the Witneſs; and he ſaid,

From 30 to 32^{b} is Painters Work; and at Page 48^{b} is a Work Book for Part of the Year 1639.

Do the Entries follow one another in regular Succeſſion in Point of Date?

Thoſe of 1639 do exactly; *viz. March*, *April*, *May*, *Auguſt*, *Auguſt* again, *November*, *December*.

Were ſuch Entries in Books uſually made before Arms were painted for a Funeral?

When Arms were painted for a Funeral, they were entered in a Book, which, at the Time they were regular, was preſerved in the Heralds Office.

During the irregular Period you mentioned what was done?

There were ſtill Funerals conducted, but not by the Heralds. I am not clear that there was not in One inſtance, but I am not certain, that *Oliver Cromwell* was not attended by ſome of the Heralds.

Mr. Attorney General, on Behalf of the Claimant, objected to the Contents of this Book as Evidence; and praying Time to make Enquiries concerning the Nature of it, the Solicitor General, on Behalf of the Crown, was directed to proceed with the Reſt of the Evidence in the mean Time.

(*Queſtion by a Lord.*) Do you know the Arms of the *Temples* of *Stow*?

I have ſeen them.

Then

Then the Book was again ſhewn to the Witneſs; and he was aſked,

Do you know the Arms of Sir *Thomas Temple*? are they entered? and are *they* the Arms?

I think that is One of the Coats they have borne. They have Two; and I think that is One of them.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Harriſon* was again called in, and examined as follows:

What is that Paper which you have in your Hand?

The original Will of *Ann Jackſon*, otherwiſe *Bridges*.

Where did you get it?

From the Regiſtry of the Prerogative Office in *Doctors Commons*.

The ſame was delivered in by the Witneſs.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then FRANCIS TOWNSEND Eſquire was called in, and read the ſaid Will, as follows:

In the Name of God, Amen. The Twelveth Daie of *October Anno Dm.* 1641, and in the Seaventeenth Yeare of the Reigne of o^r^ Sovereigne Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, Kinge of *England*, *Scotland*, *Fraunce*, and *Ireland*, Defend^r^ of the Faith, *&c.* I *Ann Jackſon*, als *Bridges*, of *London*, Widowe, (beinge ſick in Body, but of good and p^r^fect Minde and Memory (praiſed be God therefore), doe make and ordaine this my p^r^ſent Teſtament, declaring therein my laſt Will and Minde in Manner and Forme following; (that is to ſay), Firſt and principally I comẽnd my Soule into the Hands of Almighty God my Creator, ſtedfaſtly beleeveinge to have a free Remiſſion for all my Sinns, by and through the Merritts, Death, and Paſſion, of my only Savio^r^ and Redeemer Chriſt Jeſus, and by and through him to be made Pertaker of eternall Happines p^r^pared for the Elect in the Kingdome of Heaven; and my Body I comitt to the Earth from whence it came, in Hope of a bleſſed Reſurreccon, and concerninge the diſpoſinge of my temporall Bleſſings, wherew^th^ it hath pleaſed God to bleſſe mee; I give and bequeath the ſame in Manner and Forme followinge; (that is to ſay), Firſt, I give and bequeath to my Aunt the Lady *Aſtley*, for to buy her Mourninge, the

the Sume of Tenn Poundes. Item, I give and bequeath to my Uncle Mr. *Thomas Bond*, for to buy him a Ringe, the Sume of Forty Shillings. Item, I give and bequeath to my Couſine *Martha Bond*, for to buy her a Ringe, the Sume of Forty Shillings. Item, I give and bequeath to my Couſine *Barbara Bond*, for to buy her a Ringe, the Sum of Forty Shillings. Item, I give and bequeath to my Couſine *Edmond Morris*, of *London*, Draper, the Sume of Five Poundes. Item, I give and bequeath to my ſaid Couſine *Edmond Morris* his Wife, the Sume of Twenty Shillings, to buy her a Ringe. Item, I give and bequeath to *Edmond Morris*, Sonne of the aforeſd *Edmond Morris*, the Sume of Twenty Shillings, to buy him a Spoone. Item, I give and bequeath unto *Mary Morris*, Daughter of th' aforeſaid *Edmond Morris*, the Sume of Twenty Shillings, to buy her a Spoone. Item, I give and bequeath to the Poore of the Pariſhes of *Maidſtone*, *Horton*, *Framingham*, and the Pariſh wherein my Corps ſhall be buried, the Sume of Tenn Pounds, to be diſtributed at the Diſcretion of my Executor and Overſeer. And all the reſt of my Goods and Chattells whatſoever, after my Legacies paid, and Funerall Charges diſcharged, I give and bequeath unto my Couſine *Thomas Bond*, of *London*, Doctor of Phiſick, whome I make, nominate, and appointe, to be my ſole and only Executor of this my laſt Will and Teſtament, prayinge and deſiringe him to have a Care of the due and true Performance thereof, as my Truſt is in him. And I alſo nominate and appointe the aforeſaid *Edmond Morris* to be the Overſeer of this my laſt Will and Teſtament, intreatinge him to be aydinge and aſſiſtinge to my ſaid Executor in the pformance of this my laſt Will. And laſtly, my Will and Minde is, that all the ſeverall Legacies afore bequeathed ſhall be paid vnto every of the ſaid Legatees within One Yeare next after my Deceaſe. In Teſtimony whereof, I the ſaid *Ann Jackſon*, als *Bridges*, the Teſtatrix aforeſaid, have ſett my Hand and Seale the Day and Yeare firſt above written.

Ann Jackſon als *Bridges* (L. S.)

Signed, ſealed, publiſhed, and declared, by the Teſtatrix aboveſd, as her laſt Will and Teſtam^t, in the P^rſence of vs, *Thomas Webb*—*Willi. Brend*—*Edw. Deacon*, S^rvant to Mr. *Blount*, Sc^r.

Probatum apud *London* corā venābili viro *Willmo Sames* Legū Doctore Surrogato venābilis viri *Willmi Mericke*, Legū Doctoris Commiſſarii, &c. Sexto Die Menſis *Novembris*, Anno Dni 1641. Juramento *Thomæ Bond*, in Medicinis Doctoris exīris, &c. cui c c debene, &c. Jurat.

Then

Then the Witneſs ſaid,

There is an Impreſſion of a Seal upon a Wafer, which I take to be the Arms of *Bridges*; and upon the Back it is indorſed thus: "Paroch̃ Sc̃e *Bridgittæ*."

Then the Witneſs was aſked,

When did you firſt know of the Exiſtence of this Will juſt read?

I firſt ſaw the Record of this Will upon or about the 3d of *May* 1794.

Had you any Reaſon to know that ſuch a Will exiſted before the 3d Day of *May* 1794?

Not the moſt diſtant Idea.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Mr. *Harriſon* was again called in; and, producing a Book, was examined as follows:

What is that you have in your Hand?

A Tranſcript of the Regiſter of the Prerogative Court of *Canterbury*, in which original Wills are tranſcribed.

Is there in it a Tranſcript of the Will you juſt now produced, and which has been read?

Yes.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then the Reverend JOHN PRIDDEN Clerk, was called in; and, having being ſworn, was examined as follows:

What is that you have in your Hand?

A Regiſter of Marriages, Chriſtenings, and Burials, from the Year 1587 to the Year 1653, of the Pariſh of *Saint Bride's London*.

Look at the Entry in *November* 1641, of *Ann Bridges*, and ſtate when it was made, and by whom?

I believe I made this Entry in the Regiſter, about the Year 1786. It is not in the original Regiſter.

How came you to make that Entry?

Merely as an Addition to this Regiſter, to ſupply a Defect in addition to a Number of other Defects, and to make the Regiſter as complete as poſſible.

From what did you make that Entry?

It is taken from the Churchwardens Account Book of *Saint Bride's*.

Then the Witneſs produced a Book, and ſaid,

This is the Account Book, beginning in the Year 1639-40.

Then the Witneſs read from the ſame as follows:

"The Accounts of *Thomas Robinſon* and *Thomas Church*, Churchwardens of the Pariſh of *Saint Bridget*, alias *Bride's, the Virgin*, in *Fleet Street*, from *Eaſter* Week 1641, to *Eaſter* Week 1642."

Then the Witneſs ſaid,

Under the Article of Receipts for Pitts and Knells are a Variety of Entries reſpecting Perſons who have been buried in that Pariſh, and thoſe who have had the Bell tolled for them, though buried out of the Pariſh. Among theſe Entries of Receipts there are a great many Names indeed that do not occur in the original Regiſter: And I give greater Credit to theſe Accounts of the Churchwardens, inaſmuch as they contain a ſpecific, and generally a Weekly, Account of Money received by the Pariſh Clerk, or ſome other Perſon, to be accounted for to the Churchwardens of the Pariſh: The Pariſh at preſent, and, I preſume, formerly, having a Leaſe of the Great Tithes thereof from the Dean and Chapter of *Weſtminſter*.

Is there any Entry in that Book reſpecting the Burial of *Ann Bridges*?

There is.

Then the Witneſs read from the Book as follows:

"Item, for the Burial of *Ann Bridges*, and for the Knell, being a Stranger, 13 *s.* 4 *d.*"

Under what Date is that Entry?

It is under the general Liſt of Entries of that Species during the whole of the Year.

What is the Date of it?

I believe the Date of this Entry to be that of *November* 6th, 1641, from the Names adjoining and correſponding with the Names of the Date in the original Regiſter.

What is the Name immediately before it?

In this Receipt is the Name of *Elizabeth*, Daughter of *Richard Studbury*.

What is the Entry in the original Regiſter?

Elizabeth, Daughter of *William Studbury*.

What precedes the Name of *Studbury* in the Receipt Book?

"Item, for a Coffin in the lower Ground of *Mary Radford*." (The Witneſs ſaid, No Sum is put againſt it.) In the Regiſter

ſhe appears on the 5th Day of *November*, *Mary*, Daughter of *William Radford*.

What is the Entry in the Receipt Book after *Ann Bridges*?

" Item, for Pit in the lower Ground of *Elizabeth Robinſon* Penſioner."

In the Regiſter 6th *November*, "*Elizabeth Robeſſon* Penſioner."

What do you underſtand to be meant by the Entry "Stranger?"

I apprehend ſhe was not a Pariſhioner, but ſojourned there only a little Time; neither Houſekeeper nor Inmate.

Have you any Entry of her being carried to *St. Faith* that Night?

No.

Do you make Entry of ſuch Facts?

If known.

How long have you had the Cuſtody of this Regiſter?

I apprehend ſomewhere about the Year 1784.

Can you fix the Period when you were applied to, to inſpect the Regiſter of *Ann Bridges*?

I am not certain what Name I was applied to for the Search that was made; but I recollect it was ſometime in the Summer before laſt. In 1793, not before that.

By whom was that Application made?

By Sir *Iſaac Heard*, and, I think, Mr. *Townſhend* accompanied him.

Did you underſtand by that Entry that that Perſon was not buried in the Pariſh?

I conclude that, becauſe they are inſerted if buried in any particular Part.

But whether they are buried in the Pariſh, or not, the ſame Fee is paid?

Yes, if the Bell tolls.

Are you certain the Application was in the Summer 1793?

I really believe ſo, but cannot poſitively ſay, unleſs it was in 1794—but I think it was ſo long back as 1793. It was on a *Sunday*, I recollect.

What Day of the Month?

I do not recollect.

Did

Did you deliver any Extract in conſequence of that Enquiry?

Sir *Iſaac Heard* looked over the Book, and took an Extract at the Time.

(*Queſtion by a Lord.*) Are the Entries in the Regiſter made where they ſhould have been at firſt?

Yes; in my Hand.

Do not you mean to make an Entry of your having ſo done?

Sometime about the Year 1784 I diſcovered this Book in a Back Cloſet where Coals and Rubbiſh are kept. I looked over it, and obſerving a Number of Names of Conſequence, I thought proper to pay great Attention to it; and I have corrected it where I could. No Documents come earlier than 1640.; And I was proceeding to take whatever I could find to illuſtrate the Regiſter. I had begun to tranſcribe this great Book, and when I had completed it, I meant to go to a Maſter in Chancery and take an Affidavit to tranſmit it to Poſterity as perfect as poſſible.

(*Queſtion by Counſel for Claimant.*) Did you obſerve that this Book itſelf is a Copy?

There is a vaſt Variety of Writing in it. We never make Entries Day after Day, or Week after Week: We have a rough Book to enter in firſt, but make the Entries once a Month, ſometimes once a Quarter.

Then the Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then Sir *Iſaac Heard* was again called in, and examined as follows:

When did you make Application for Inſpection of the Regiſter of *St. Bride's?*

I ſet down a Minute of it at the Time, and the Words are, "*Sunday*, 4th of *May* 1794. In the Regiſter of *St. Bride's*, *Fleet Street*, in the Cuſtody of the Rev^{d} M^{r}. *Pridden*, inſerted by himſelf from an old looſe Paper,—" 1641, Burials, *Nov^{r}* 6th *Ann Bridges*, a Stranger."

Croſs-examined.

What induced you to look at that Regiſter?

That Will which has been here was an Index to it.

When did you firſt ſee that Will which has that Indorſement upon it?

The 3d of *May* 1794.

What

What led you to know that ſuch a Will exiſted?
I am continually ſearching in the Prerogative Office.

Do you mean to ſay you found it by accidental Search? What previous Reaſon had you to ſuppoſe it was there?
Yes, I do ſay ſo. The Name of *Bridges* always led me to look at a Will.

Whether you went that Day to ſeek for Wills with the Name of *Bridges*, or upon any other Occaſion?
I am there almoſt every Day in the Week.

The Queſtion is, Whether you went to the Office that Day for the Purpoſe of looking whether there were Wills with the Name of *Bridges*, or for any other Purpoſe?
It was for a general Purpoſe, not for Curioſity. I have inſpected myſelf very near 20,000 Wills. I believe I have 30 Volumes of Tranſcripts taken by myſelf.

Was you ſearching after any Pedigree when you found this Will?
I am confident I was; I ſhould not have gone there for Curioſity.

Did you begin with looking for any other Will, or for that of *Bridges*?
My Clerk has reminded me of what is true, that I was ſearching for the Name of *Bartlett*.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then *Francis Townſend* Eſq. was again called in, and examined as follows:

When did you go to make this Search?
The 3d of *May*. The Memorandum I made is this, "An old Regiſter of *St. Bride's, London*, is now, 4th *May* 1794, in the Houſe of the Rev. Mr. *Pridden*, the Curate, to be rebound. In the Regiſter of Burials 1641, is the following:—'*November* 1641, *Ann Bridges* a Stranger.' This Entry has been made lately by the Rev. Mr. *Pridden*, the preſent Curate, from ſome old Papers of the Clerk's, which, Mr. *Pridden* ſays, appear to be Accounts of Fees and Dues received by the Clerk, and ſettled with the Miniſter. Note. There are many ſuch additional Entries. *Sunday*, 4th *May* 1794."

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then JOHN OAKENFULL was called in, and, having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

What are you?
A Cordwainer.

Are you the Pariſh Clerk of *Harbledown*?
I do Duty for my Father, who is in the *Eaſt Kent* Militia.

Is that Book, you have in your Hand, the Regiſter of the Pariſh of *Harbledown*?
Yes.

Where did you take it from?
Laſt from the Proctor's Clerk, who had it by the Deſire of Mr. *Bridges*.

Look at the Entry in 1606?
I cannot read it.

Do you remember it in a different State?
No.

How long do you remember the Book?
Not above Two Years.

Croſs-examined.

Did you happen to caſt your Eye upon this Blot before?
No; I never did.

Do you know how that Obliteration happened?
No.

Where is the Book kept uſually?
In the Church Cheſt.

Is it conſtantly kept under Lock and Key?
Yes.

Is it a damp Place?
Yes.

A very damp Place?
Not very damp.

Do you recollect any Body applying for it, and being very much with it?
Yes, Mr. *Townſend* was down, and about Two Hours with it.

The Witneſs was directed to withdraw.

Then

Then Mr. JOHN COLMAN was called in, and, having been ſworn, was examined as follows:

Do you know Mr. *Bridges* of the *Iſle of Thanet?*
Yes.

Where is he now?
In *Wales.*

Do you remember him in the Year 1791?
Yes, very well.

Did he employ you for any Thing about his Family?
He deſired I would examine the Regiſter in different Places, and trace his Name as far as I could.

Did you examine the Regiſter?
Yes.

Did you examine the Regiſter of *Saint Michael Harbledown?*
Yes.

Did you find any Entry of the Year 1606, of which you took any Note?

The Witneſs produced a Book, and was aſked,

Is that your Hand Writing?
Yes.

Then the Witneſs read from the ſame the following Extract: "The next I found was *Edward Bridge*, Son of the aforeſaid *John Bridge* and *Maria* his Wife, baptized *October* 5th, 1606."

Notice being taken that, in the Extract read, the Name was *Bridge*,

The Witneſs ſaid, It ſhould be *Bridges*; I know it was by Miſtake I miſſed a Letter.

Did you find an Entry in the Regiſter of *Harbledown* of *Edward Bridges*, Son of *John Bridges?*
Yes.

Then a Book was ſhewn to the Witneſs, and he was aſked,

Is this the Regiſter you ſearched?
Yes.
Was there this Blot?
No, there was not.

Was it clear when you took it?
Yes.

Did

Did you transcribe it yourself?
Yes.

Did any Body assist you in reading it?
No; they brought it to me at the *Coach and Horses*, and *Oakenfull* brought the Register to me. I was there again after that, and read it over again.

You have made an Entry of *Bridge*: Are you sure it was *Bridges*, and not *Bridge*?
I am sure it was *Bridges*.

What is the next Entry in your Book?
" The next I found was *Robert*, Son of the aforesaid *John* and *Maria Bridg* *, baptized *June* 11th, 1609."

* Sic in Orig.

What is it in the Register?
In the Register it is *Robert Bridges*, Son of *John*, 11th *June* 1609.

Did you make any Search after *Edward Bridges*? Read what you have written in the next Entry.

† Sic in Orig.
‡ Sic in Orig.

" The next was *Thomas Bridge* †, Son of the aforesaid *John* and *Maria Bridg* ‡, baptized *January* 31st, 1612."

What is it in the Register?
" *Thomas Bridges*, Sonne of *John*, 31st *January* 1612."

Is the whole of your Book in your Hand Writing?
Yes, I took it from the Register myself.

Did you ever see the Register at any subsequent Time?
I was there Two or Three Months afterwards.

How was it then?
Just as when I left it. I delivered it to the Clerk again.

Do you remember finding the Blot that now appears in it?
No.

When did you first see that Blot?
Never till now.

The Witness was directed to withdraw.

ERRATA in Minutes of 21st *April* last.

Page 64, Line 32, for (*John Bridges* of the City of *Canterbury*, Grocer) read (*John Sharp* of *Faversham*, in the County of *Kent*, Maltster); and in
Page 77, Line 3, for (*John Sharp*, dated *September* 18th, 1615), read (*John Bridges* of the City of *Canterbury*, Grocer, dated 3d of *May* 1699.)